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colour pull-out

F.A. CUP WALLCHART

SHOOT!

20p

19th JANUARY, 1980

INCORPORATING
Top Soccer

WEST HAM
TEAM GROUP

PREVIEW:
**LEAGUE CUP
SEMI-FINALS**

**WHO WILL WIN
THE TITLE?**

*Gordon McQueen soars above
Martin Buchan to repel a Wolves
attack for Manchester United. Willie
Corr and John Richards are
powerless to intervene.*



WHO WILL WIN THE TITLE?

JOE ROYLE
(Bristol City)

**'LIVERPOOL
in charge'**

It was ominous that Liverpool spent the first month or two sleeping, compared to their usual form. I think everyone had their chance in that period for, if they were going to beat Liverpool for the title, some side had to make the most of the Champions poor early form. Perhaps if a side had, and had been about five points clear by now, it might have been a different story.

But no one made the break and with Liverpool back on top in early December despite that atrocious start (for them, anyway), I don't see who will hold them if they strike their real form for the rest of the season.

London will be well represented by Arsenal and Tottenham in the race for a U.E.F.A. Cup place. Arsenal have the potential to beat everyone but they lack the consistency and desire of Liverpool. Player for player, Arsenal can

match any side in the country. But there are other things that count apart from that.

Forest will come again, I'm sure. And Crystal Palace? Well, I've been very impressed with them. But whatever they may feel at present, I think they will look back on this season as the one when they consolidated and learned a lot.

To me, Liverpool, Nottingham Forest and Manchester United are superior to the rest. I cannot understand Arsenal. They have superb players but they just don't impose themselves like Liverpool.

Arsenal's home form has let them down a bit in the past; and Tottenham have slipped in the big games. Their recent 1-2 home defeat by Man. Utd. was a good example. You have to win those 'big' games if you want to win the title. Liverpool have messed around a bit so far but now I think they'll take charge.

**'ARSENAL
London's
best'**

LIKE most other players up and down the country, I think that Liverpool will win in the end.

It will certainly take a good team to stop them, but there simply isn't a side as good as Liverpool: they are one or two steps ahead of anyone else. Once they get the bit between their teeth, they are away.

Arsenal are the best London team. Palace are not far behind them and they could both do

something as regards the Cup or a place in Europe at the finish. Arsenal have the better resources of those two London sides and also have the better blend in their side.

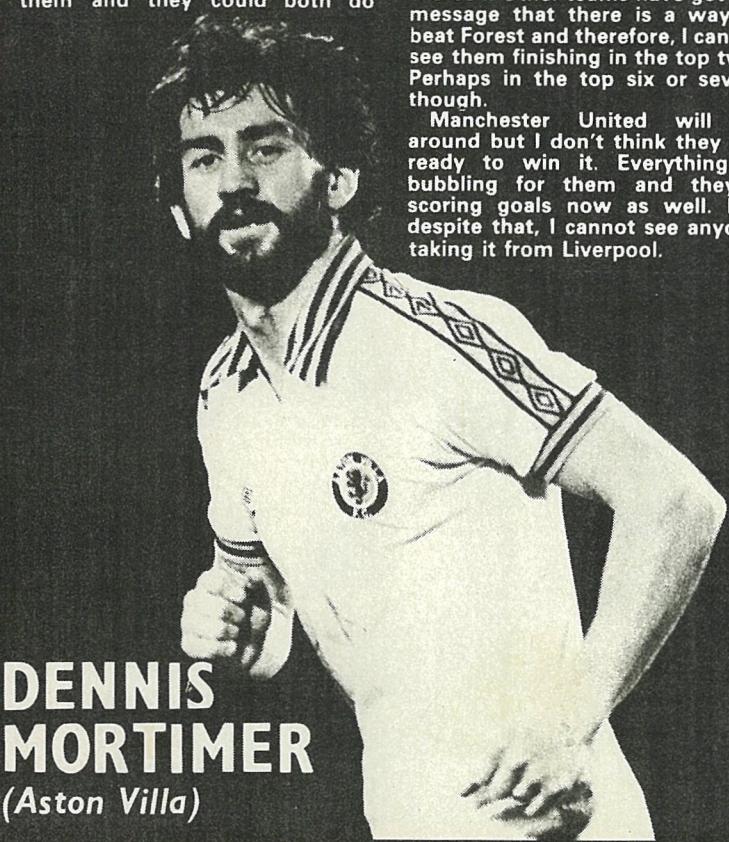
The only problem with Arsenal is that they've struggled at home, more than away. They have been able to play free football away, but not at home. Palace? It's a bit early to tip them although I can't see them finishing outside the top six.

Maybe Spurs will be the team to creep up there into direct contention.

They are a good attacking side but perhaps aren't so good defensively. If they want to be in contention at the end, they must sort that out.

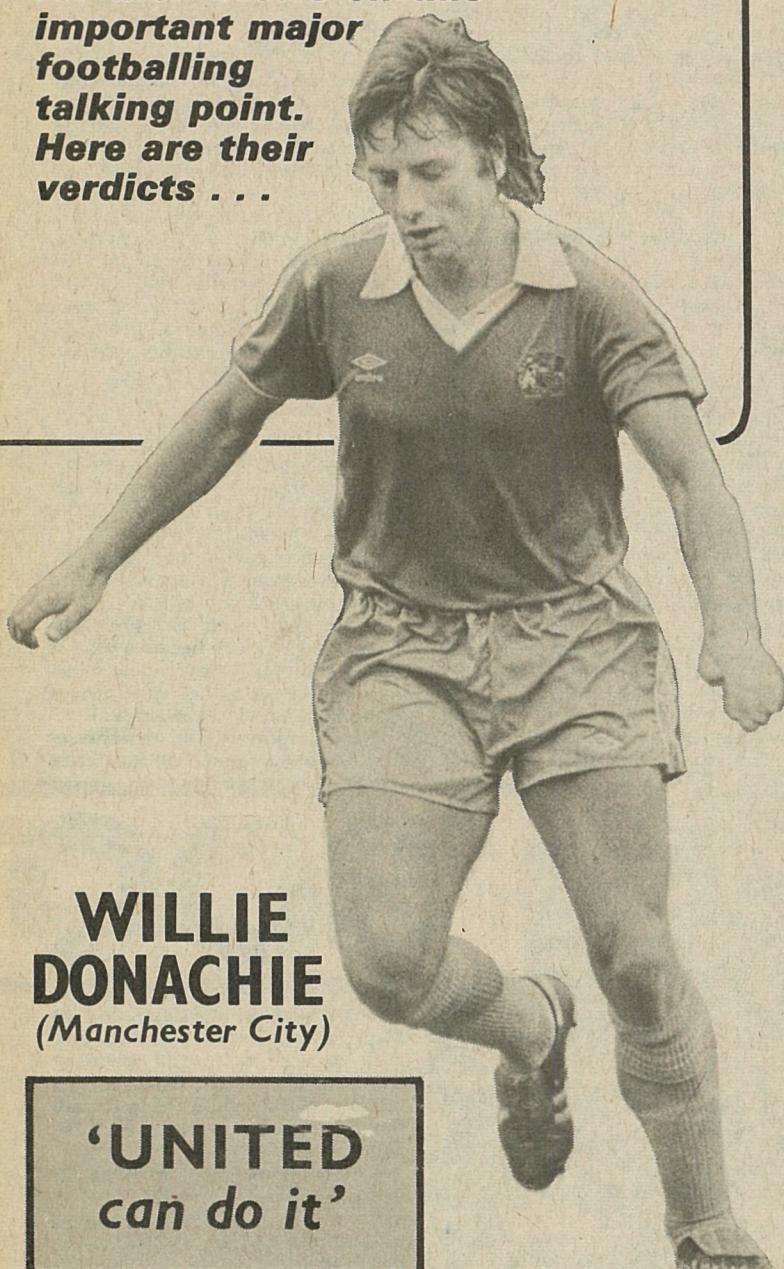
I cannot see Forest getting up there now. The way they were playing before the Christmas period suggests they have gone off the boil. Other teams have got the message that there is a way to beat Forest and therefore, I cannot see them finishing in the top two. Perhaps in the top six or seven, though.

Manchester United will be around but I don't think they are ready to win it. Everything is bubbling for them and they're scoring goals now as well. But despite that, I cannot see anyone taking it from Liverpool.



DENNIS MORTIMER
(Aston Villa)

We asked four First Division players from around the country, for their views on this important major footballing talking point. Here are their verdicts . . .



**WILLIE
DONACHIE**
(Manchester City)

'UNITED can do it'

I WOULD say that the League title winners will come from Manchester — and I just wish it was City I meant!

I think United can do it. Everybody expects Liverpool to win the title again, and therefore United are still underdogs even though they're right up there. That is a big advantage to them.

I cannot see Arsenal winning the League because there is something missing there; I don't know what. Palace and Spurs have both done really well but I feel Palace are a little bit too inexperienced at the moment. Spurs are not ready for it as a side and I think they lack a bit of steel.

Crystal Palace may well take the title in a couple of seasons. If their young players go on maturing and developing as they have done, they will become an exceptional side. Tottenham have the ability to

develop, too, but you need to be a settled, balanced side to win the League title. Sides that haven't really got their best formation seldom win the League Championship title — the competition is just too tough for that.

Nottingham Forest have a few problems, on and off the field. I don't think they have replaced Archie Gemmill yet — letting him go so soon was a mistake, although Stan Bowles may make a difference.

Forest are still a good team, probably alongside Arsenal in ability. But I'd put Liverpool and Manchester United a step in front of those two in the race for the title.

I would like to see someone apart from Liverpool win the title. I respect The Reds enormously but I feel it would be better for football if somebody else got in on the act for a change.

'FOREST no longer a threat'

I THINK Liverpool will win the title because they have come right bang into form again.

Of the London teams, Arsenal are the best bet. I don't know if Palace have enough experience to win it this season but they might in future years. They need to score more goals: they aren't getting enough at the moment.

Arsenal are well equipped and when they meet the top sides, they seem to do well. But they often slip up against the lower teams and you can't afford to do

that if you want to win the League title.

Sixth are a good footballing side but it's hard to play like that every week. They may need a while to give themselves that extra all-round strength that's so vital to winning the title.

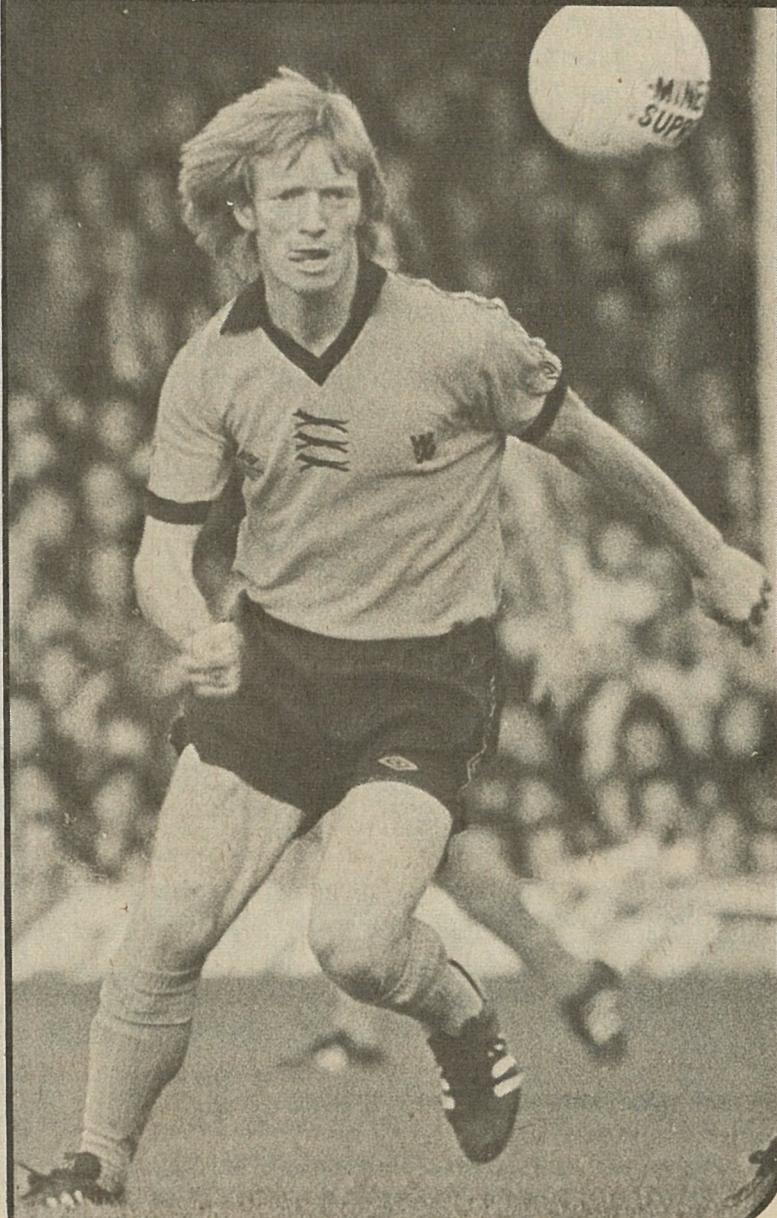
Manchester United? I don't put them in the same class as Liverpool but you can't rule them out.

I don't think Forest will be really challenging again this season. They are still a good team but they may have seen their best days as a side. They have several players that are getting old and the loss of Gemmill and Woodcock has been a major blow to them.

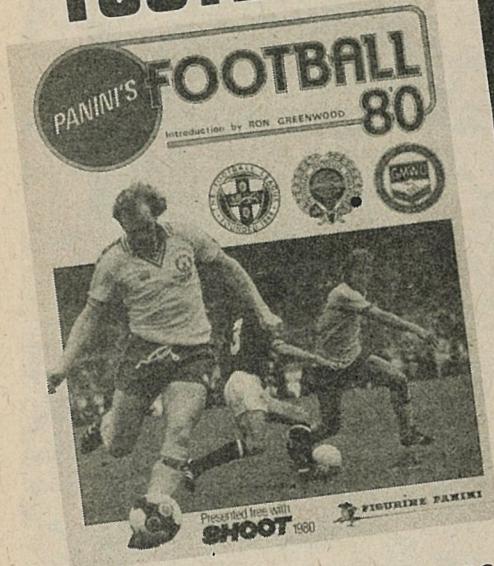
I think Forest will still be up there with Arsenal and Manchester United. But as far as I can see, Liverpool will be some way ahead of that trio.

Liverpool have everything. A settled side, good strong squad and even several young players. You can't ask for more than that.

**WILLIE
CARR**
(Wolves)



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MARVELLOUS game that it is, football does possess a few adverse aspects that mar it. Such as my pet hate — the vicious boo boys who make life a misery for someone of their own team.

It's particularly sickening when a small minority set themselves against a home player and subject him to ridicule and abuse.

To some extent I can understand that treatment being meted out to a visitor, who will often take it as a compliment; but for supporters to barrack one of their own men is tremendously unfair to say the least.

It can sap the unfortunate victim's confidence — the vital ingredient needed to bring out all his skill and application.

I've seen an opponent booed so much by a section of the crowd every time he touched the ball that he's been taken out of the game more effectively than if he'd been tightly-marked.

Unfortunately, I doubt if this black aspect of soccer will ever be removed. I can't think of a solution. But by mentioning it in my column I may cause some fan to think twice before he next feels inclined to shout abuse at a member of his team.

No player ever steps on to the pitch determined to play badly; and if he does do so a torrent of ridicule from his home crowd isn't going to help him regain his form.

The reason I've touched on this

Joe Corrigan has now won over the Manchester City supporters.



Ray Clemence
TALKING SOCCER

subject is because I'm mentally preparing myself to play against Southampton in the League at Anfield this Saturday and their captain, Alan Ball, has been having a rough ride from a certain section of the crowd at The Dell. Although Ballie is a strong character used to criticism, he must be feeling the strain.

That is a terrible pity, for his experience, skill and driving force has been an inspiration to Southampton and helped to establish them as a First Division side.

Driven out

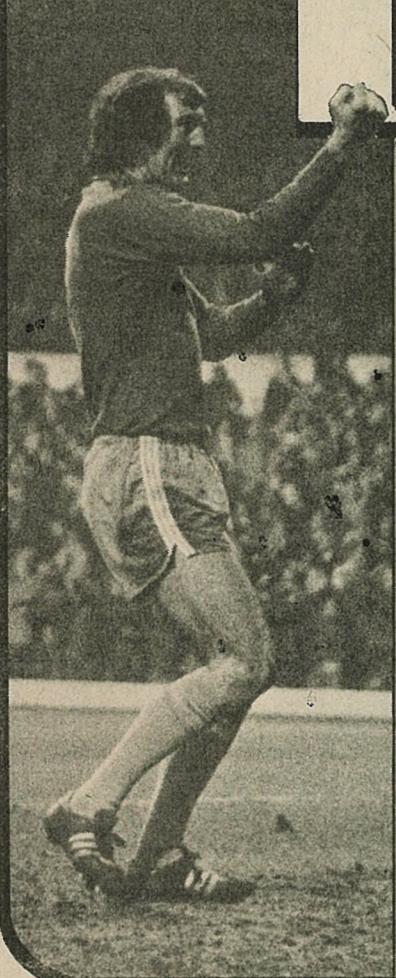
His manager, Lawrie McMenemy, made an appeal to the anti-Ball faction to cease their attacks, and it may have an effect.

But Ballie wouldn't have been the first player to be driven away from a club by a campaign of hate.

It was rumoured that Jon Samuels left Highbury because he was never accepted by the North Bank. This was a shame, for he had always done his best to serve Arsenal.

The supporters of Manchester United have a reputation for almost

'BOO'



blind loyalty to the club and its players, but even they used to give stick to Ted McDougall when he was at Old Trafford. I believe that was one of the reasons he left a club that most players would give a lot to play for.

A few years ago, Manchester City's keeper Joe Corrigan had to suffer a barrage of abuse whenever he stepped out on to the Maine Road pitch. It got so bad he contemplated leaving for a club in a lower Division.

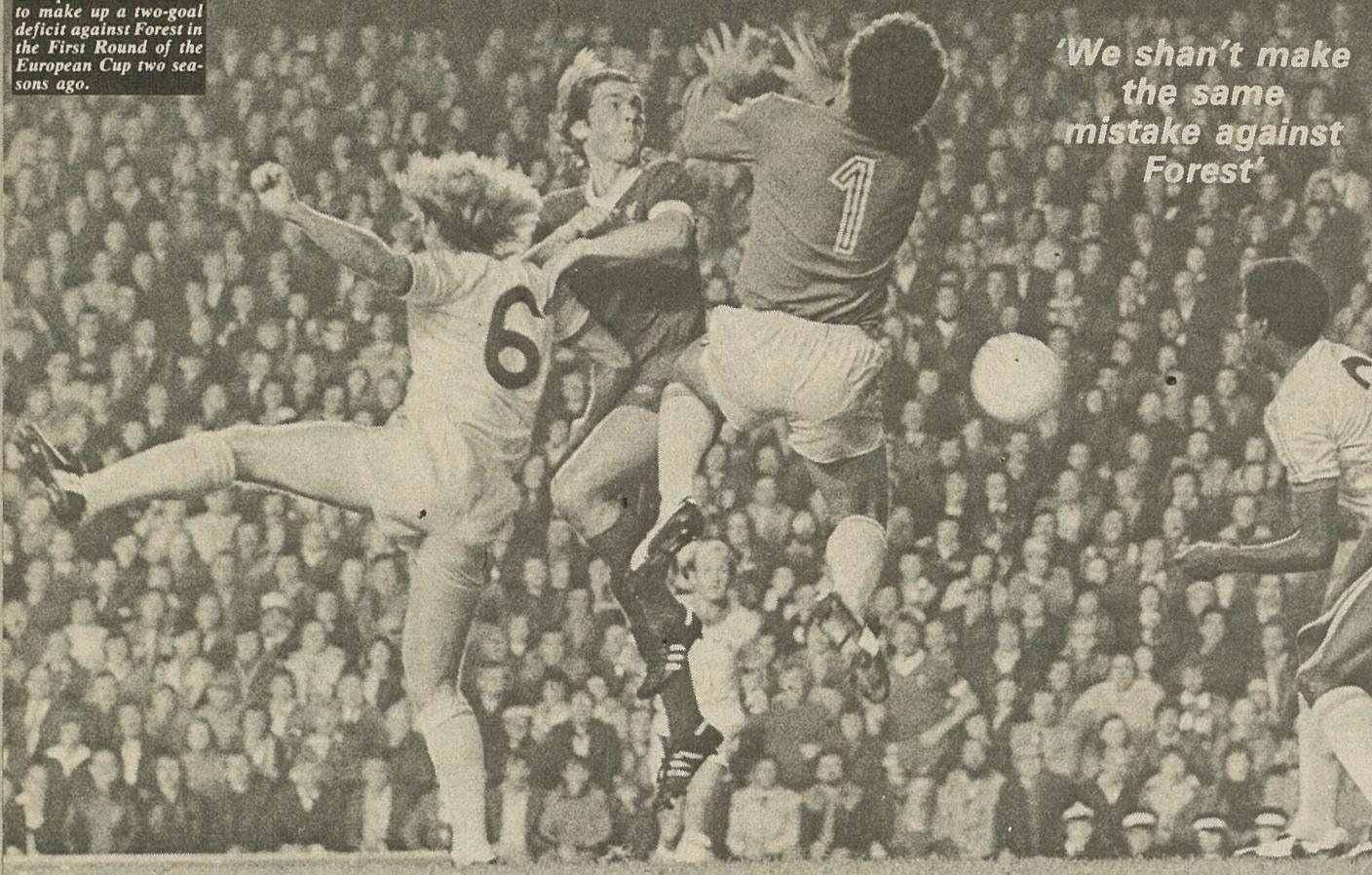
'Joe Corrigan once came in for stick from home fans'

But he worked extremely hard in training to counteract this and it bolstered his confidence and sharpened his skills to such an extent he won over his critics and silenced them.

Joe is now a firm favourite at City. Testimony to that is his selection as "Player of the Year" there for the past two seasons.

Don't get the impression that the carpers are restricted to the terraces and wear jeans, scarves and boomer boots. There are respectable-

Liverpool were unable to make up a two-goal deficit against Forest in the First Round of the European Cup two seasons ago.



'We shan't make the same mistake against Forest'

BOYS I HATE'

looking gents in stands holding season tickets who pick on players and catcall at them.

I know of one at Anfield who sits not far away from my wife, Vee, and persistently knocks Liverpool, and one player in particular. Yet he still turns up for every home match, even though he's upset people around him so much at times he's been threatened with a "knuckle sandwich" to shut him up!

The player he dislikes so intensely isn't me. I've been lucky at both Scunthorpe United and Liverpool in that I've always been well treated by their fans, even when I've gone through the inevitable bad patch when things haven't gone right.

Although since Peter Shilton and I have been rivals for the England number one spot — a situation blown up by the media — I've had to contend with abuse from fans behind the goals at away games.

Liverpool fans have always had a kind spot for 'keepers, not only their own but those of visiting teams. It's something we've often regretted in the dressing-room after the opposing 'keeper has put on a magnificent performance inspired by encouragement from the Kop!

I'd much rather hear fans praising the opposition than baiting one of their own players. As I said before,

it's something that will always happen. One probable reason is that fans who've spent the week being given a hard time by bosses at work or the office feel entitled to vent their spleen on someone who can't answer back. It would just be less harmful if their target was a member of the visiting team and more capable of ignoring the verbal battering.

Anyway, I do hope that Alan Ball plays for Southampton against us on Saturday. Ever since his days with Everton, he's always been a welcome visitor at Anfield, even though he's often proved to be a thorn in our side.

Bogey

Particularly when he was with Arsenal and helped to make them our bogey team for several seasons.

We don't talk in terms of wanting revenge on another club, but the feeling is strong to wipe out the memory of a nightmare defeat in the League by Southampton at The Dell on September 1st last year.

We lost 3-2. But even Saints' players felt we should have won after having most of the play. We had more than half-a-dozen clear-cut chances, yet scored only twice, while they had around four shots

and three went in.

Their last goal, the winner, was a real Clemence "clanger". I should have pushed a shot from Charlie George around the post for a corner. Instead, I misjudged its power, tried to hold it, and it spun through my hands into the net.

A good result against Saints at Anfield will set us up for the first-leg of the League Cup Semi-Final against our biggest rivals Nottingham Forest, the team who beat us in the Final replay two years ago and have held the trophy ever since.

It's ironic that Forest are the only club to have retained it, while we, England's most successful current club, have never even held it!

Our Quarter-Final match against Norwich City was a real thriller and we were delighted with our showing against a club that have a good history in the League Cup. Three times they've reached the Final, beating Rochdale in 1962 by 4-0 over two legs, losing 1-0 to Spurs in 1973 and losing to Aston Villa in 1975 by 1-0.

Although we played away at Carrow Road, we convincingly knocked out City by 3-1.

Forest will prove a more difficult prospect.

This first-leg gives us the chance to rectify the mistakes we made in

the first-leg of the European Cup First Round in 1978, when a 2-0 defeat which we couldn't reverse at Anfield in the return wrecked our bid to win the Continent's premier trophy for the third year in succession.

Then we made the mistake of pushing forward too early in the game and leaving ourselves open at the back. Garry Birtles, scorer of a goal in Forest's 3-0 win in extra-time over West Ham that sent them through to this Semi-Final, actually scored his very first goal for his club that night.

Forest have already beaten us once this season, by 1-0 at the City Ground in the League when I was absent with flu.

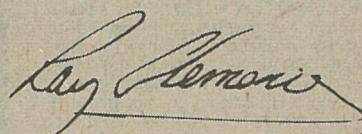
Apparently our lads were so dominant before they gave away that goal.

Until that win over The Hammers, Forest had gone through a bad patch and critics were gleefully starting to write them off. This is something of which we at Liverpool have had experience.

But great teams — and Forest are one — all suffer periods of slump and then invariably confound their critics by playing even better than before.

If we succeed in knocking out Forest, the Final will hold no fears for us, whether we play Wolves or Swindon!

Meet me again next week —



CHELSEA could add another trophy to their honours list at the end of the season — the Herefordshire Senior Cup! They have agreed to play Hereford United at Edgar Street for the trophy as part of the agreement made when Bobby Gould left the Fourth Division club to join Chelsea as their new assistant-manager.

Gould said: "There will be no problems so far as we are concerned. It should be a good game — particularly if we have achieved our target of gaining promotion."

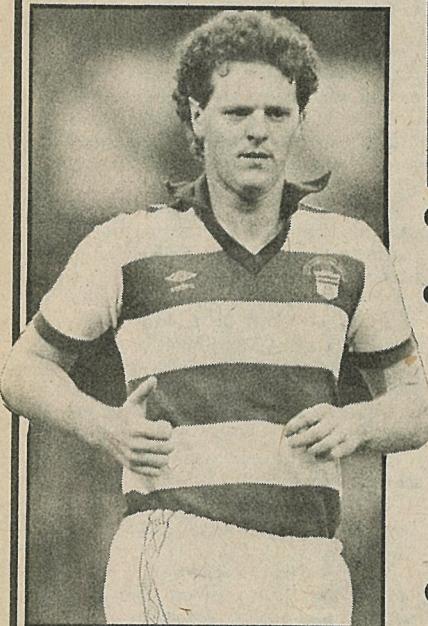
IRISH PLAN TO CURB TROUBLE

THE Scottish F.A. have asked the Northern Ireland F.A. to switch their British Championship match in Belfast from the Saturday, May 17th to Friday, May 16th (7.30 pm).

They hope that the Irish will agree to the change that will almost certainly cut down the number of Scots at the game and minimise the chance of trouble.

The last time Scotland played in Belfast was ten years ago when they won 1-0 with a goal from Nottingham Forest's John O'Hare, then with Derby, George Best was ordered off for throwing mud at the referee!

RITCHIE staying in Scotland



BAD news for English clubs casting envious eyes over Scotland's "Player of the Year" Andy Ritchie, of Morton, is that the Cappielow striker is ready to sign a long term contract that will keep him with the ambitious Premier Division club for life.

"There are one or two things still to be sorted out," says Ritchie, "but I'm certain everything will go according to plan."

Ritchie was elected SHOOT's "Most Exciting Player of the Year in Scotland" last season.

Several English League clubs have had the big striker watched this season but some remain unconvinced about his ability to fit smoothly into the First Division. They place a question mark against his workrate but most Scottish fans reckon that ten minutes of Andy Ritchie is worth 80 minutes of most other strikers.

FERGIE'S FUTURE UNCERTAIN AT COVENTRY

COVENTRY'S manager Gordon Milne backs big striker Mike Ferguson (right) as the man to get goals through the mud of the winter months, and Scotland striker Ian Wallace makes it clear also that Fergie is his favourite striking partner.

But even that vote of confidence is not enough to convince Ferguson he has a future with Coventry. He was left out of the team for three months when Milne preferred 17-year-old Tommy English but when he came back he grabbed eight goals in his first four games, including all four goals as Coventry sank Ipswich.

Those goals had Milne saying: "With the going getting heavy, Mike is the man who can battle through and score goals."

Wallace, who has also started to score after a lean spell, made his feelings plain.

He said simply: "When I'm playing with Fergie I always feel we're going to get goals. He's great to play with."

But Fergie casts his eye over the clutch of teenagers ready to break through, and he isn't so sure that he is going to stay in the team.

English showed potential during his run. There's Garry Thompson, fit again after a broken leg, and 17-year-old Mark Hateley the son of 60's striker, Tony.

Ferguson says: "There are a lot of good players fighting for the same striker's spot and only time will tell which one is going to be the permanent choice.

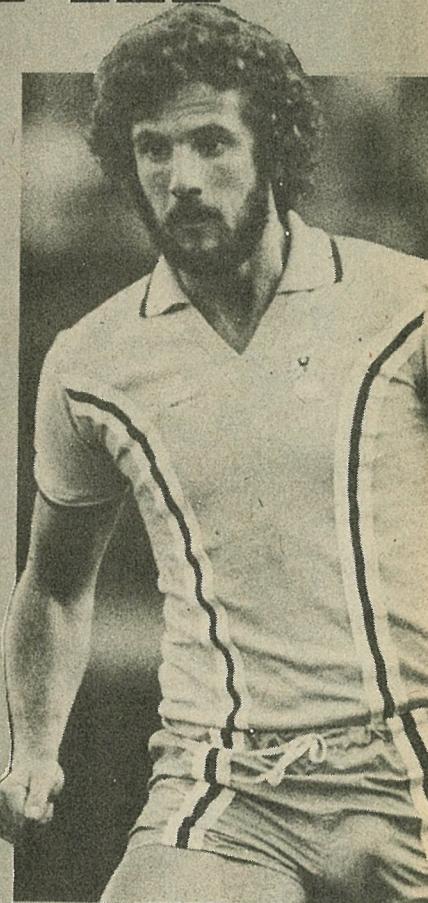
"I don't know if the boss will decide to go for one of the younger players. To be honest I was surprised when he put me back into the side, for I hadn't been playing well in the reserves.

"But when I returned everything just clicked into place and the goals started flowing."

When Milne decided to call on Ferguson again he stopped a rush of clubs, led by European Champions Nottingham Forest, bidding for the player. The asking price then was £600,000.

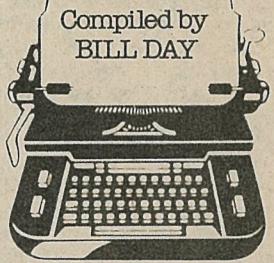
But now that he is back in the side and among the goals again the price on his head is around £750,000.

However even that price jump won't scare off Aston Villa if Ferguson can convince Ron Saunders that he is the man to replace £1.5m Andy Gray.



NEWS DESK

Compiled by
BILL DAY



NIGHT BEFORE

LIVERPOOL shared an hotel with the All Blacks Rugby team when they were in London for a game at Arsenal. There was, I understand, a marked difference in the teams' approach to the night before a big game.

The Anfield stars went to bed early and slept in the next morning, taking it easy before leaving for Highbury. The New Zealanders were up to the early hours making full use of the bar and were up early the next day to take breakfast in the dining room.

Match facts: the All Blacks beat England at Twickenham; Liverpool drew at Highbury.

McForest

THE Scottish branch of the Nottingham Forest Supporters' Club is seeking more members.

Forty-four faithful fans belong to the club and they are hoping to double that figure by the end of the season.

The club hopes to organise mini-bus trips to attend Forest matches both at home and away.

The club also runs a "Junior Reds" section. Members under-16 are presented with scarves, badges and membership certificates for a small subscription.

Prospective members wanting more information should contact Robin Morris, the Chairman, at 22 Whitelea Crescent, Balerno, Edinburgh EH14 7HF.

Brian Clough, for one, is delighted with the progress made by the Scottish branch.

HUGHES HELPS EVES

MEL Eves (left) was not happy a few months ago. So much so that he asked for a transfer from Wolves.

Now he is glad he changed his mind about staying at Molineux because he has regained his place and impressed manager John Barnwell with his determined approach in the recent games against Manchester City and Grimsby Town.

Eves has also paid credit to the encouragement of Emlyn Hughes, who has had several talks with him about his future.

He said: "If I can win a regular place then I will be staying with Wolves but I am ambitious to get on in the game."



FORMER Whitby forward Peter Hampton had a cracking Football League debut for Hartlepool. He scored in a 3-3 draw at Lincoln City. Hampton has taken the professional plunge at the mature age of 28, and manager Billy Horner says, Peter has seen how Alan Shoulder (Newcastle United) and Barry Dunn (Sunderland) have done and is keen to have a go as well. Both Shoulder and Dunn have made a successful switch from non-League football.

Whitby has been a happy hunting scene for Horner. The Pools boss signed Malcolm Poskett (now with Brighton) and John Linacre from the Northern League club.

JOHN Wile, West Bromwich Albion's skipper, is concerned about players getting more and more power and in the process holding the clubs to ransom.

He said: "I am all for getting the best possible terms but there must be a limit to what a player can get from the game."

"Loyalty appears to be going out through the window. Soccer is a team game, but I feel there will come a time, not too far in the future, when clubs will be forced to have a massive clear-out of players because they just cannot afford to operate in the present way."

SELKIRK F.C., who play in the East of Scotland League, are off to a "clean start" in the New Year. Supporters of the club have donated new jerseys to the first team and a full strip to the reserves.

SOUNESS' TRIBUTE

LIVERPOOL'S Scottish international midfield star Graeme Souness paid tribute to Middlesbrough after the Champions' 4-0 win over his former club at Anfield.

Souness, who moved from Middlesbrough for £352,000 two seasons ago, said, "That is a better Boro team than the one I played in. They tried to play football from the back all the time, even when three goals down. In the old days they would have resorted to thumping long balls out of defence. I was impressed. I think they will do well."

Ron's New Year message

RECEIVED a delightful letter from Ron Greenwood, the England manager, wishing SHOOT readers a happy New Year.

He added: "I hope we continue to see the good positive football that we are now coming to expect from our club sides and international teams, and may they all be successful in whatever competition they partake."

You've shown them the way, Ron. Thankfully, they're following your example. Your arrival at Lancaster Gate was a "breath of spring" — and now its paying dividends handsomely. Thanks.

MANAGER MOORE

BOBBY Moore, former England captain, has been appointed manager of Oxford City, the Isthmian League side.

Moore has been given a three year contract. The appointment is Moore's first in football management, though he has been coaching younger players at Crystal Palace on a part-time basis. Moore turned down the job of specialist coach with Manchester City before taking over at Oxford.

He said: "Everyone has to learn somewhere and being involved from square one makes it more interesting. The club needs to be completely reorganised but I like the ideas the chairman has in mind. Because you have played at the highest level does not mean you can manage at the same level, but I do not feel it will do me any harm."

TONY Rance, Bristol City secretary, is to take over at West Bromwich Albion on February 1st from Alan Everiss, who is retiring after 47 years at The Hawthorns.

TONY Hinchey, a former schoolboy player with Chelsea, is doing very nicely with Birmingham.

The Cardiff-born youngster, who won Schoolboy honours with Wales, has played for the Midland Select Youth team against Coventry and his midfield form augurs well for the future.

A sports mad youngster, he won honours for Cardiff in rugby, baseball and cricket.



MARK Dennis (above, number three), Birmingham City's young full-back — who made an impressive debut for England's Under 21 side recently, has been ribbed by his colleagues at St. Andrews because of his hair.

It transpires that Mark tried a new rinse but it turned out a bright shade of red!

Another quick rinse removed most of the red from his hair but it was still rather vivid — much to Mark's embarrassment.

EVERTON'S STAR PUPIL

IT shouldn't be too surprising that Martin Hodge (below) has done so well since being given his chance in the Everton goal. The 20-year-old former Plymouth star had good tuition at Home Park.

He says: "Tony Waiters and Mike Kelly, both of whom were managers there, were ex-goalkeepers. Jim Furnell, who did so well for Arsenal, was also on the coaching staff. It was certainly a help for me to have ex-keepers in charge as it's such a specialised position.

"They all impressed upon me the need to make my presence felt, so I try to be as vocal as I can. I also follow every move intensely, so as to not lose concentration."

Hodge has kept Scottish international goalkeeper George Wood in the reserves for part of the season.



McQueen and Burns the tops says Stein

GORDON McQueen and Kenny Burns have been pencilled in by Scotland's manager Jock Stein to play a leading part in the country's 1982 World Cup build-up.

Stein believes they form a sound partnership at the heart of the Scottish defence.

"They play well together and Kenny is very good for Gordon, who is now a much more disciplined player," says Stein.

"He has learned that he's in the side as a defender, not to go on 40 yard runs and leave things wide open at the back.

"And one of Kenny's strengths is that he helps others around him and makes sure Gordon sticks to his job.

"Kenny gets criticism in the game, but he's got a lot of qualities you need when you go abroad to play in a hostile atmosphere. He's got determination, strength and the will to win as well as confidence in his own ability. He's more responsible than he was a few years ago and this is where he has benefited from Brian Clough."

ONCE BITTEN . . .

SCOTLAND'S Youth international players get an odd warning from director of coaching Andy Roxburgh every time they set off to play abroad . . . watch your teeth!

It follows the unfortunate experience of Dundee striker Ian Ferguson when the Scotland team was in Las Palmas last year.

He was paddling in the sea after training when a huge wave dislodged his dentures and they were swept away.

"It cost me £150 in dental fees getting them replaced," says a rueful Andy.

CLYDE striker Neil Hood will remember his side's recent win over Scottish First Division League leaders Airdrie at Broomfield. After scoring the first goal he gave away a penalty from which Airdrie levelled the score. Then five minutes from time he scored the winning goal, only to be sent-off afterwards.

Marangoni's other skill

CLAUDIO Marangoni, Sunderland's £320,000 Argentinian from San Lorenzo, is a qualified physiotherapist.

But he's not planning to use his manipulative skills at Roker Park.

"At San Lorenzo, players forever came to me for advice or treatment for an injury, even though we had a superb medical set-up," says 25-year-old Marangoni. "I don't want that to happen at Sunderland — I've come here to play football."

Marangoni, whose mother is Italian, took out Italian citizenship to smooth out transfer negotiations — it meant he wouldn't need a work permit.

And the player who was on the fringe of the Argentinian World Cup side says he would be happy to play for Italy if he was wanted.

FACTastic

SLIGO Rovers recently broke a 43-year-old club record by going 12 games without defeat. The game that broke the record set in 1936, was a nine goal thriller away to St Patrick's Athletic.





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Official Annual 1980

by John Keith photography by Harry Ormesher



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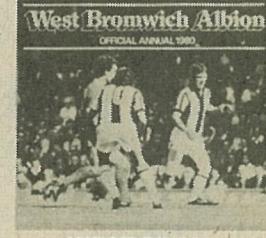
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CRYSTAL PALACE



EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

ENGLAND

The best possible draw for England would be to be grouped with Greece, Spain and Italy. Greece, because they are the weakest side in the Finals; Spain, because they aren't much better; and Italy because it will surely be easier to beat them in the preliminary group than the Final. Host nations rarely lose Finals. England have improved steadily under Ron Greenwood and in Kevin Keegan they have the best forward in Europe. There are still a few question marks over the side, although you can't argue with their record. England will give the Finals personality, flair and colour and while it would be foolhardy to say they will WIN the competition, it would be wrong to dismiss their claims.

HOLLAND

The Dutch have been under heavy criticism from their own Press and fans, but when it really mattered, they produced the goods, winning 3-2 in East Germany after being 0-2 down. Many of the old faithfulness from Argentina are still there — Schrijvers, Krol, Brandts, Jansen, the van der Kerkhofs — and there are the usual rows between certain players and the authorities. For all their superb football, the Dutch haven't won a major trophy and one wonders whether they have missed their chance.

SPAIN

The least memorable side in the 1978 World Cup Finals, Spain have not improved very much since then. Goals are hard to come by and when things are going against them, their temperament can be suspect. What Spain lack are players of magic, players who can turn a game with one flash of genius. Migueli is as good a defender as you'll find in Europe; Asensi's experience and vision make him the ideal captain; Santillana and Quini up-front promise to score, but rarely do so. Spain fall into the 'hard to beat' category and England will know more about them after the Spring friendly in (probably) Barcelona.

ITALY

Italy don't lose at home very often and they will be extremely difficult to beat in front of their partisan supporters. They have been playing some first-class football since the World Cup, although the experiments of manager Enzo Bearzot have brought criticism. The 1978 team has been kept together, despite the advancing years of some players. The pressure of qualifying has been off and Bearzot hasn't had to produce a winning side yet. There can be little doubt when the real thing starts in June he will have the *azzurri*, as they are called, tuned to perfection.

THE DRAW THAT WOULD SUIT ENGLAND

THE draw for the Quarter-Finals of the European Championship will be made in Rome on January 16th. There will be two groups of four teams — one group playing in Rome and Naples, the other in Milan and Turin. The group winners will meet in the Final in Rome on June 22nd. Here we take a look at the eight Finalists.



The form of Kevin Keegan in Italy will play a vital part in England's hopes of success.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Even though they won the 1976 tournament in Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia don't normally travel well. Technically, they are capable of producing very advanced soccer, with Masny, Panenka and the attacking sweeper Ondrus all dangerous. They were beaten 2-1 by a young French team recently, while Czech clubs rarely do well in Europe. Still, Champions never give up their title without a fight and they'll be well prepared for the Finals.

GREECE

Who? Amazing to think they qualified at the expense of the USSR and Hungary. So they cannot be ignored. Even so, it's hard to imagine Greece toppling any of Europe's big guns. They are a young side and the morale is understandably high. As they didn't win an away qualifying tie (!) the atmosphere of Italy may prove too much for them.

Czechoslovakia, European Champions in 1976.



WEST GERMANY

Unbeaten under Jupp Derwall since the 1978 World Cup, the Germans have chalked up some impressive results, home and away (0-0 in Malta excepted). They have experience, skill, know-how and goal-power in all departments. The Welsh will testify to the Germans' technique — when they were beaten 5-1 in Cologne they played "some of the best football I've seen from any side" to quote former Welsh manager Mike Smith. The Germans are hardened battlers and it is dangerous to ever write them off. Remember their fight-back against the Czechs in 1976? The '78 World Cup was a disaster and they will be eager to make amends.

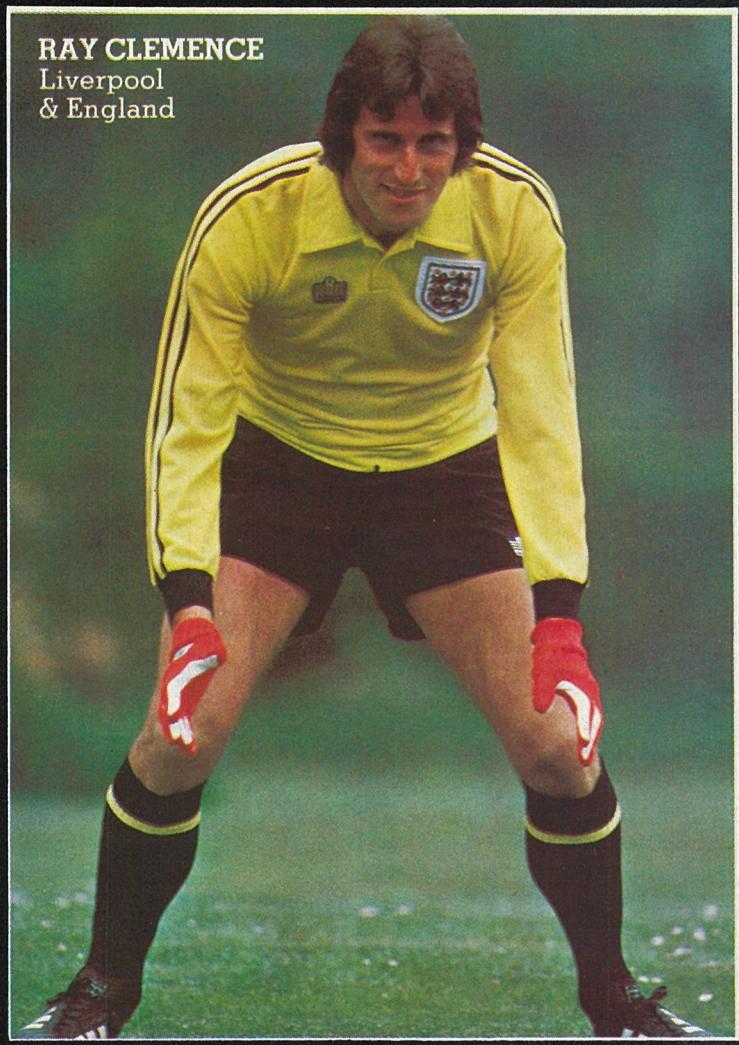
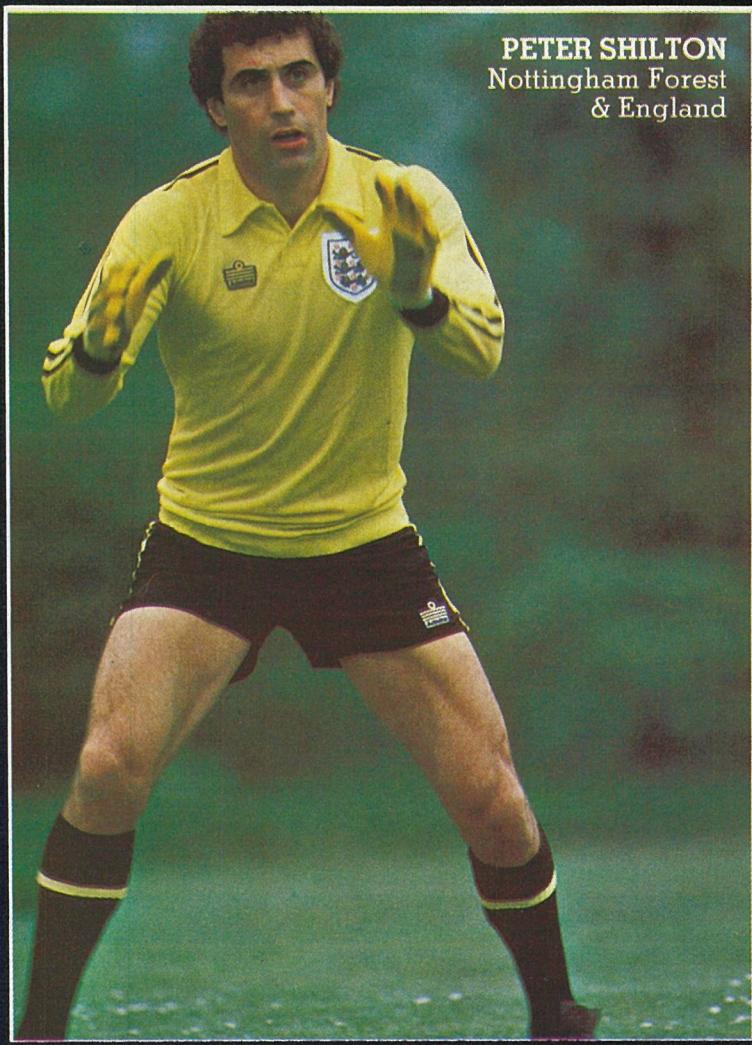
BELGIUM

Unbeaten in the qualifying ties, Belgium came from behind to overcome Portugal and Austria, thanks to two victories over Scotland. Belgium have a good blend of youth and experience, although like Spain they fall more into the 'difficult to beat' category rather than 'likely to win'. The pressure won't be on them and there is always one surprise side of a major Finals. It could be Belgium, but the safest bet is that they'll be grouped with neighbours Holland as they have been for three successive World Cups!

Tony Woodcock (left) in his new Cologne colours against VfL Bochum.



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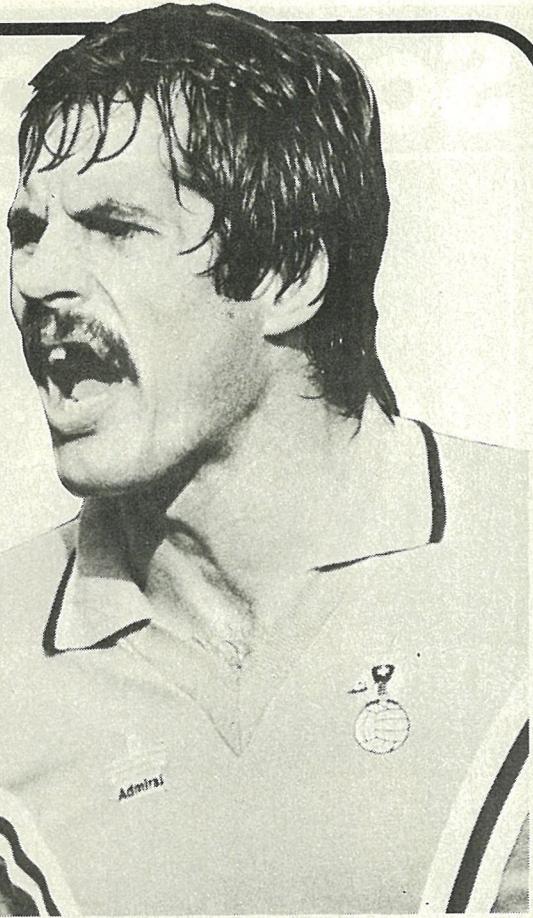
PHOTO CASEBOOK

"Six foot two, eyes of blue, big Jim Holton's after you." So goes the popular terrace song, and here we take a look at the chequered career of one of the game's most colourful characters, now a big hit with the Coventry fans at Highfield Road (right).



JIM HOLTON This is your soccer life

After a spell with W.B.A., Jim moved on to Shrewsbury (top left), where he made his League debut. Then Manchester United signed him up (left). It was not all roses for big Jim at Old Trafford though, and he had a long spell recuperating from a broken leg (below).



While at United, Jim won 15 caps for Scotland, scoring two goals. One of them came against Czechoslovakia (below).



He also played in the 1974 World Cup (number five, below) before a brief move to Sunderland (above, right) and then to Coventry.



I THINK I can manage to sum up my return to the Scottish team for the European Championship match against Belgium at Hampden in two words ... dead chuffed!

It was a fantastic boost for me personally, particularly as a lot of people thought I was on the scrap heap after being injured two years ago.

SHOOT readers will well know that I set myself two targets after that injury, the first to get back playing in the Celtic first team and the second to win my 41st cap and make that Scotland full-back spot my own again.

Being recalled for the Belgium games was unbelievable — I couldn't have been happier. But I cannot hide my disappointment at the result, and can only apologise to those loyal Scottish fans. The only consolation for me was that at least I am back in the reckoning.

It was a nice finish to a decade which started so well for me, peaked in the middle and fell away slightly just before the end.

So what have the Eighties got in store for me and football in general? Well, I am not in the crystal ball business but I don't mind telling you a few of the things I would like to see happening ... and

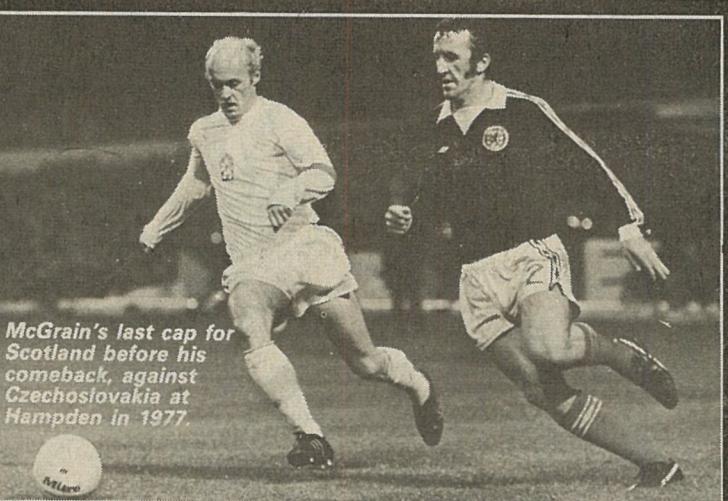
perhaps you won't be too surprised in view of my recent selection that I am desperate for Scotland to do well in the early World Cup matches.

It is vital too that we make an impression in the 1980 British Championship series when ourselves, Wales and Northern Ireland will be desperate to dent England's confidence on the eve of their departure for the European Championship.

And outside the international front, what about new ideas for a new decade?

Well, Jimmy Hill certainly isn't short of a few and I was particularly intrigued by his three points for a win idea, but even that has drawbacks.

Sure it would encourage attacking football, but what happens when two teams rise to the call and share a 3-3 draw? It could be attacking all the way and yet they still would get only a point apiece.



Maybe there could be some scheme devised where sides get points for entertainment value and I heard someone talking about half a point per goal ... but that is going to ridiculous levels.

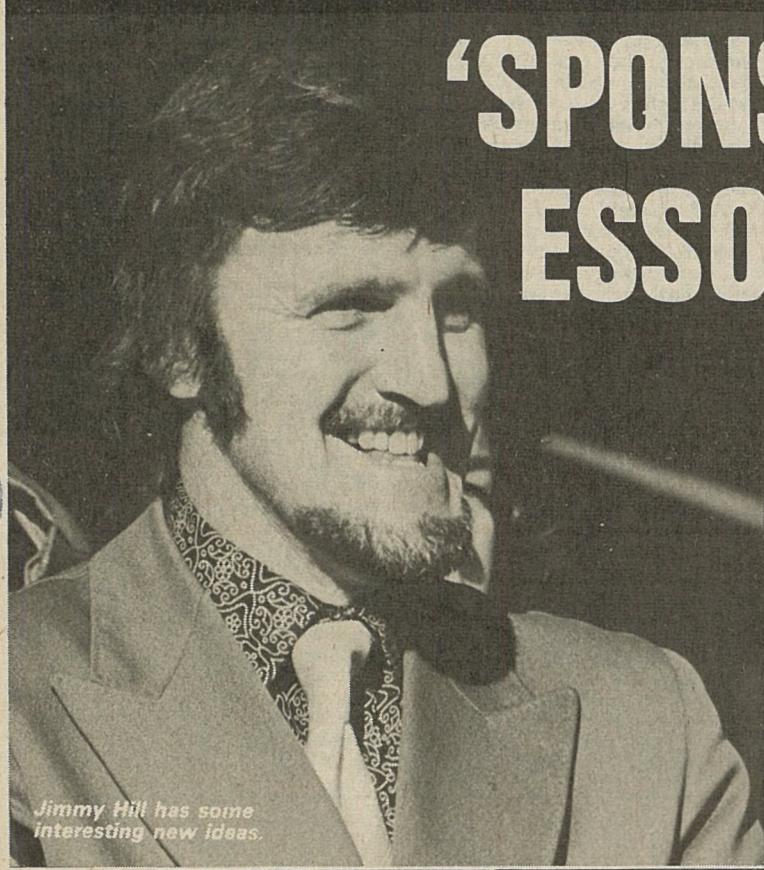
And what about this 35 yards offside line idea, as featured in American soccer?

Well, that has good and bad sides, especially for defenders playing an offside trap. Only 17

Football should not be too pig-headed to think that it is above sponsorship while every other sport gives in to it. Admittedly it would have to be monitored very carefully, but in Scotland at least a cash injection would help keep good players North of the border.

There is one other thing that would make me happier in the 80's, something that some people might find a strange request ...

'SPONSORSHIP-YES ESSO CELTIC-NO'



Jimmy Hill has some interesting new ideas.

yards from the area it would be easy to move out, but conversely it is a long way back for an overlapping full-back.

Inevitably freedom of contract will come in North of the border in 1980 and let me say no more about that just now than that it is good for the good players while perhaps not so useful for those down the Leagues.

One introduction I would welcome with open arms would be increased sponsorship. Hibs lead the field in Scotland just now with the name of their strip manufacturer on their jerseys, Liverpool-style.

But I would like to see sponsors get involved in football in a far bigger way than they do now although not to the extent where the name of clubs are changed to Esso Celtic or ICI St. Mirren.

the standardisation of balls.

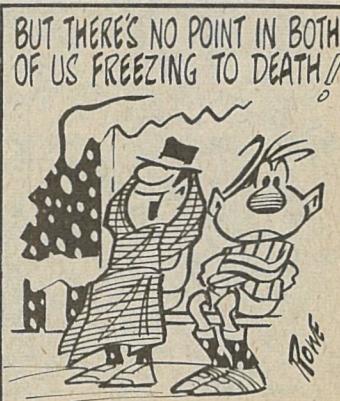
Different clubs use different makes of balls and I think people who don't kick them for a living would be surprised at the difference in weight. That might sound a bit corny, but it's true!

Anyway, whatever your wishes for a happy new decade, may you get them.

See you in two weeks ...

NEXT WEEK'S TARTAN
TALK BY RANGERS'
DEREK JOHNSTONE

NOBBY



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Baseball

As a keen fan of Derby, I'd like to know how their home got the name of the Baseball Ground?

DARREN BIRD,
DERBY

For once, Darren, the obvious answer is the right one — baseball used to be played there by, it seems, soldiers stationed in the area.

Gypsies used to camp on the site, too — and, when Derby County took it over for their home in 1895, a band of them had to be turned away.

One of the gypsies placed a curse on the club, threatening they would never win any top honours while they played there — and neither did they until Derby won the F.A. Cup, more than half a century later, in 1946!

100 per cent

Brazilians

Has any country played in the final stages of every World Cup?

TONY SHAW,
CREWE

Yes, Tony, those remarkable Brazilians have done just that.

They won in 1958, 1962, and 1970; were runners-up in 1950; finished third in 1938 and 1978; and fourth in 1974. Their failures were in 1930, 1934, 1954, and 1966.

Incidentally, the full Brazilian World Cup record in the final stages is: Played 52, Won 33, Drawn ten, Lost nine — with a goal tally of 119 to 56.

Birthday games

Could you tell me the First Division results on 26th February, 1966 — the day I was born?

KEVIN PROCTOR,
LIVERPOOL

Well, on that very cold and frosty Saturday, Kevin, your local Merseyside giants had mixed fortunes against West London clubs — Everton beating Chelsea 2-1 at home, but League leaders Liverpool going down 2-0 in a shock defeat at bottom club Fulham. And these were the other scores.

Arsenal 1, Spurs 1;
Blackburn 2, Sunderland 0;
Blackpool 0, Villa 1;
Forest 1, Sheffield Wed. 0;
Leicester 2, West Ham 1;
Manchester Utd. 4, Burnley 2;
Newcastle 3, Stoke 1;
Sheffield Utd. 1, Leeds 1;
West Bromwich 1, Northampton 1.

Defeats

Which club has suffered the most Football League defeats in a single season?

GERARD SMITH,
SOLIHULL

Worst record of all, Gerard, is that of Rochdale — who lost 33 games out of 40 in the old Third Division (North) in 1931-32.

Their full dismal record was four wins, three draws, and 33 defeats — with a goal-tally of 48 to 135. 30 defeats (in 42 games) is the worst for the First Division — shared by Leeds in 1946-47, and Blackburn in 1965-66.

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

SHORT PASSES

Steve Whitworth (below) played 353 League games for Leicester before moving to Sunderland in March, 1979; he played in seven full internationals for England.

(I. BENDELAW, London, S.E.25)



Ipswich Town's biggest win has been 10-0 — v. the Maltese club Floriana in a European Cup-tie on 25th September, 1962.

(JUHA SOLA, Finland)

The British Championship has only once been shared by all four countries — each getting three points in 1955-56.

(C. GRINDLEY, Scarborough)

The Arsenal side which beat Liverpool 2-1 in the 1971 extra-time F.A. Cup Final was — Wilson, Rice, McNab, Storey, McLintock, Simpson, Armstrong, Graham, Radford, Kennedy, George; sub. Kelly.

(GUNNAR TARALDSET, Norway)

Kenny Dalglish scored 112 goals in 204 Scottish League games for Celtic before moving to Liverpool in August, 1977.

(NIGEL HUGHES, Shrewsbury)

United Kingdom readers receive £2 for every letter published.

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Austin chases goals record

MANSFIELD striker Terry Austin is all set to claim his biggest goals haul in a season.

"I must have a good chance," says the 25-year-old former Walsall forward. "I got off to a reasonable start and towards the end of December I'd already notched 16."

Terry's best total came last season when he grabbed 18 — 13 for Walsall and five for Mansfield. The season before that the Austin tally read 17 — 11 at Plymouth and six at Walsall.

"I've only played in two full seasons up to now," he says. "I was at Ipswich for three years, but I only played a few games for them, and never won a regular first team place. Then I moved to Plymouth, where I played around 30 matches. I've clocked up about 150 League games now."

Terry's happy knack of finding the net stems from the players who set up the chances. "There's no secret," he says. "Goalscoring is all about being in the right place at the right time, and that's something which comes from experience. A lot of it is sharpness — getting into position half a yard before the centre-half."

At Mansfield, Austin is linking up with former Bolton hot-shot Steve Taylor. "The partnership seems to be working out quite nicely. He's been hitting the target and so have I. You can usually reckon on a goal a game between the two of us."

"The fans at Field Mill are fantastic. If you're scoring goals, you're everybody's hero and you can't do anything wrong. There's a good away following and at home we're averaging 5,000 on a regular basis."

"Mansfield isn't a big town and we're competing with Nottingham Forest, which is obviously very difficult, so I don't think we do too badly."

Terry joined Mansfield from Walsall on the transfer deadline last March in an exchange deal with Dave Syrett.

"I had no grudge against Walsall," he says. "They made it quite clear at Fellows Park that if I wanted to stay, then they would

be happy.

"But at the time both Walsall and Mansfield were firmly rooted in the Third Division relegation zone. It was a matter of choosing the club which I thought would stay up."

"Mansfield looked the better bet and, fortunately, I made the right decision. Things were looking gloomy for Walsall and it was a case of the team lacking confidence. When that happens it's very difficult to get it back again."

"In the end they were relegated, so I wasn't all that disappointed at leaving. Not that I didn't like the club. In fact, I thoroughly enjoyed my stay there. But I've played in the First, Second and Third Divisions and I didn't particularly want to play in the Fourth."

"Mansfield manager Mick Jones is doing a good job. It's his first experience of League management although I think he's done some coaching in America. He was also in charge of non-League Kettering before that."

Bubbling

"When he first arrived at Field Mill the team weren't playing well. After the opening nine games we were at the bottom of the Third Division."

"Since then he's made his mark on the club. He's got everybody working hard and we're all bubbling with enthusiasm. The boss is very keen and ambitious to do well and he wants everyone connected with the club to have the same emotional involvement."

"The aim at Mansfield is to get into the Second Division, and that's what we're all thinking about."

"It only needs a continued good run to put us within challenging distance. The points gap is so narrow. Having played against most teams in the Third Division, I think we are good enough."

"Everybody wants to improve themselves and I am no exception. I don't want to do it by moving but by winning promotion with Mansfield. I'm happy here."

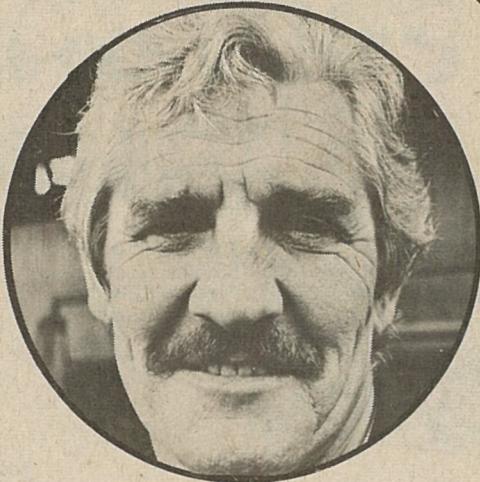


Austin (right) adds another goal to his total against Reading.

MANAGERS

CROSS TALK

This week we bring together Aberdeen's boss Alex Ferguson and Bolton's Ian Greaves to discuss the job from both sides of the border



'English clubs don't like paying big fees for our players'

ALEX FERGUSON (Aberdeen)

FERGUSON: This management business has changed a lot in recent years hasn't it? So much so that I now find it is becoming a team job. I've got an able assistant in Pat Stanton, a full time physio and various coaches.

GREAVES: I don't think a First Division manager in England can get by without an assistant. Stan Anderson is my number two here, and you're quite right, Alex, when you say how the game has changed. I now spend a lot of my time just doing contracts, showing a lad how to work out his tax, what goes in the pension scheme and so on. In the old days when wages weren't so high, it wasn't that complicated.

FERGUSON: One of the problems for managers in Scotland is that you fellows in England are always after our players. What upsets us a wee bit is that although you're paying all those crazy prices to each other, you don't want to pay them for Scottish players.

GREAVES: The Scots have never been daft when it has come to selling players, but until seven or eight years ago, I could do a good deal there. Now, it isn't possible.

FERGUSON: Certainly the days are gone when the English clubs could get a bargain here. But we don't try and milk them when they come in for players. We just want realistic prices.

GREAVES: What you can spend on players depends on which club you are managing. If you are boss of Manchester United, you've got an open market. You can shop at Harrods. But if you are manager at Bolton, like me, you've got to look around for the cut price goods, shop at Woolworths if you like.

FERGUSON: I can't afford to spend

the kind of money some of the English clubs are splashing around, either. Of course, a lot more English managers are looking abroad for players now aren't they?

GREAVES: I'm one of them. To find players at a reduced price, I

'I'm going abroad for bargain prices now'

IAN GREAVES (Bolton)

now find myself going to places like Sweden and Poland instead of Newcastle, Middlesbrough and London.

FERGUSON: We are having a pretty good season this time but it would be nice if we could get the gates up a bit. I suppose they are not too bad, comparing the population here to those in English cities, and gates seem to be down everywhere.

GREAVES: How Scottish football survives when some of the

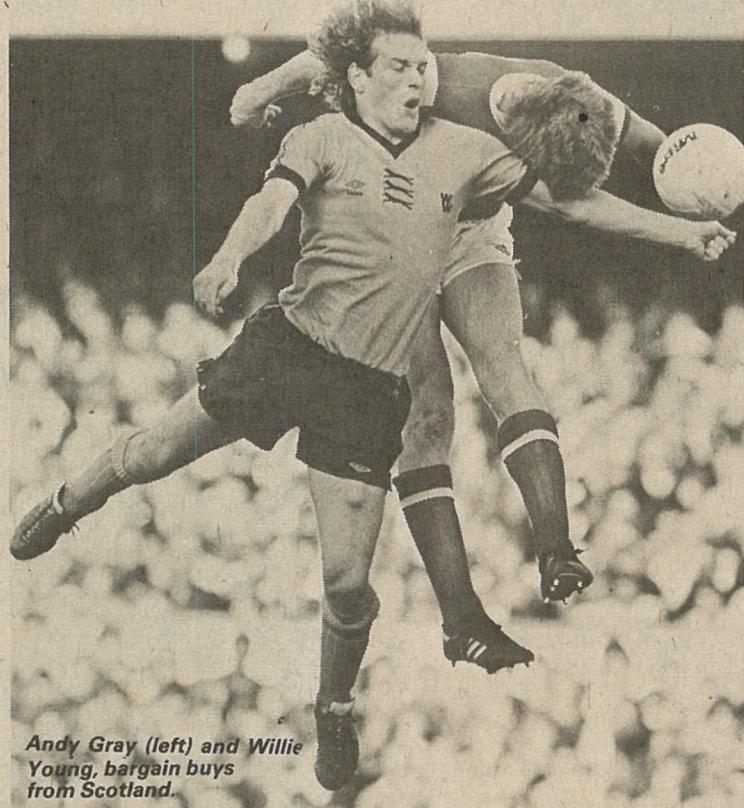
Premier Division games only attract 3,000 people, I don't know. But as you say, gates are down all over. Ours have slipped badly this year because we aren't doing so well. But they would have been down in any case because it's our second season back in Division One and the crowd have seen it all before. If we had played a team such as Arsenal in a Cup tie a few years ago, we would have got a 40,000 gate. In the League this year, we'll be lucky to get half that.

FERGUSON: I believe the Premier Division has been a success up here. It's narrowed the gap between the top teams and the rest. The only problem is that sides occasionally see too much of each other. I know so much about certain teams, and vice versa that I will try different tactics on occasions just to try and surprise them. It doesn't always work, of course, but if you didn't try something new, those games would just dry up, tactically.

GREAVES: We've dried up a bit at Burnden Park this season but I still think we are good enough to be in the First Division if we can get everyone playing well. Bigger clubs can afford to have two or three players off song and still get by. We can't, and I've had to chop and change the side to try and get 11 together who are on form at the same time.

FERGUSON: It wouldn't be so bad if you could get away from football now and again, would it Ian? But I haven't had a day off since I went into management five years ago. Even on Sundays, I have to deal with the report from the reserves game and the physio's report on injuries.

GREAVES: I must admit that I try and make Sundays sacrosanct. I don't come into the ground on a Sunday unless it's absolutely necessary. But getting away from the game — it's impossible when you're a manager.



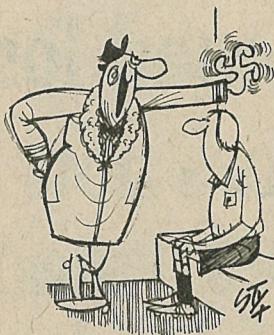
Andy Gray (left) and Willie Young, bargain buys from Scotland.

FOOTBALL FURNIES



This week Stan Bowles, Nottingham Forest's £210,000 signing from Q.P.R., selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.

"And don't you dare ask the poor woman to sell you his ticket for Saturday's Cup-tie"



"You helped swell the gate today — 7,576 spectators watched the game and you made it 7,577"

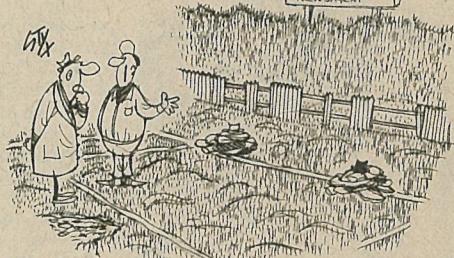


"Let's kick someone and get sent-off"



"I remember you — you were the ref at last week's match"

"As we've drawn a First Division side at home in the Cup boss, do you think we should get some new posts?"



"There's something you don't often see at a football match"



TORQUAY'S MAN WITH A MISSION

TORQUAY is internationally famous for its hotels, its beaches and an overall reputation of being a top holiday resort in the summer and the ideal retirement town in the winter.

But just a few hundred yards from Babbacombe Beach you will find a man whose mission it is to make Torquay well known as a town with a football team to be reckoned with. Mike Green, Torquay United's manager, sits behind his desk at Plainmoor and knows that he has already achieved a lot.

"When I came here as player-manager I knew after ten minutes of the first game that I would need a complete new team. Most of the

have got something to prove, players in other club's reserve sides or non-League teams," he pointed out.

Looking through the current team there are three players plucked from the wilderness of non-League soccer and eight who were languishing in reserve teams.

Strikers Steve Cooper and Les Lawrence had drifted out of the Football League and cost Torquay peanuts. Now they are among the leading scorers in the Fourth Division and would command fees approaching £200,000 at present day values.

And goalkeeper John Turner was a Reading reserve until 18 months ago. This season he has been watched by several big clubs and has produced a string of top class displays.

In home games, however, Turner has often been reduced to the role of spectator as Torquay devastate their luckless visitors.

"I am happy with the progress we have made so far this season," said the young United manager. "We needed to score more goals and tighten up at the back — that we have done."

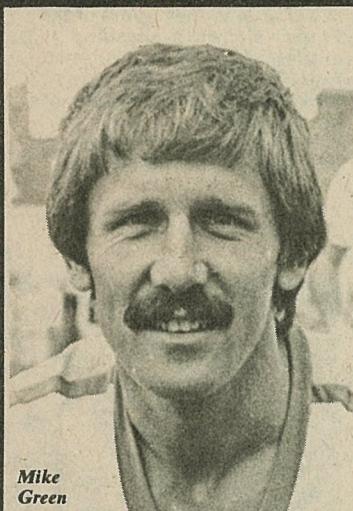
But there are two worrying aspects of United's success. Despite their excellent home record they are having great difficulty in pushing their average home gate above the 4,000 mark.

"I don't know what people want. We have given them goals and points, yet still I meet armchair fans who have not been here for ten years and they complain about the team!" lamented Mike.

And of course with a small club producing good results the inevitable First Division scouts are spending their Saturdays in Devon's most popular resort. Players like Donal Murphy (ex-Coventry), Cooper, Lawrence, Turner and centre-half Richard Bourne have all been catching the eye.

"But we would not stand in anyone's way if a big offer comes in," said the United boss. "You cannot stop a player going to a First Division club even though I would be sad to lose anybody."

Problems aside these are happy times for Torquay. Mike Green captained both Bristol Rovers and Plymouth Argyle to promotion to Division Two and the sweet smell of success is now being blown his way by those famous Torquay sea breezes.



Mike Green

players were not bothered whether they won, drew or lost," he said.

Now, two and a half years later, only one of the 18 players at the club when Green arrived remains at Torquay — the long serving Ian Twitchin, whose commitment could never be questioned.

In this his first managerial job, Mike Green has changed the whole attitude of the club from top to bottom and the results now speak for themselves. Torquay are among the leading teams in the Fourth Division promotion race and together with Huddersfield and Portsmouth are scoring goals wherever they go.

And one of the beauties of Mike's rebuilding job is that his exciting new team cost less than £50,000 to put together. "I have tried to bring players here who

IPSWICH midfield player Frans Thijssen is the international who came in from the cold.

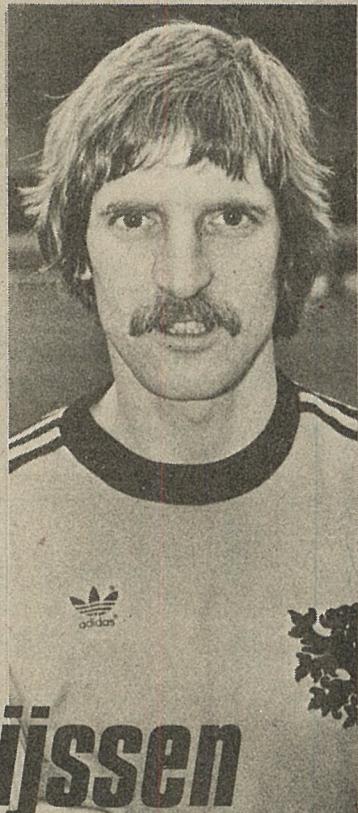
The 27-year-old Dutchman, a £200,000 buy from FC Twente last February, had virtually given up hope of making the Holland side again.

But instead he found himself recalled for his country's most important game for some time — the European Championship qualifying tie in East Germany from which the Dutch required at least one point to book their place in the Finals in Italy this summer.

The Germans needed a win and a crowd approaching 100,000 filled the stadium in Leipzig to cheer them on. And when they went into a two-goal lead it looked 'iron curtains' for the Dutch.

Seconds before the interval, however, Thijssen pulled one back with a close-range header and in the second-half Holland rallied to win 3-2.

Thijssen earned his recall after an absence of almost four years because the Dutch were hit by an injury crisis. National manager Jan



Frans Thijssen Going Dutch again

Zwartkruis was receiving good reports about the Ipswich ace and decided to send one of his assistants to Portman Road for the match against Aston Villa.

The spy was impressed and Thijssen was back in the international picture. "It was a real surprise," he admitted, "because it had been so long since I had worn the orange shirt of Holland."

"I knew there were some injury problems because I keep in touch with Holland but I was very grateful for the chance to win back a place. I was happy with my game and the manager told me he was pleased, too. Now maybe I can go to Italy for the Finals."

"We came in for some criticism in the Dutch papers before the game and they clearly thought we would lose. We had only drawn 1-1 at home with Poland in the previous game and it was a match we were expected to win comfortably.

"But it was a happy side with no problems among the players. Some of the big names were missing but for us all it was a chance to play for a place in the Finals."

Thijssen is keeping his fingers crossed that he makes the final squad but he knows he faces stiff competition — and he admits that playing in England could be something of a handicap.

"I must keep playing well so that

they don't forget about me," he says. "There are so many good midfield players in Holland who will be trying to impress, but my performance in Leipzig has given me heart."

Thijssen had played four times for his country and been on the bench on three occasions prior to that game. He was also in the Dutch World Cup squad of 40 but his name, together with that of his Ipswich colleague Arnold Muhren, was missing when it was trimmed to 22.

Even if he doesn't make the trip to Italy he feels the Dutch have as good a chance as any other country of winning the Championship, although he has a theory that the host nation should be slight favourites.

"Holland have lost the last two World Cup Finals," he points out, "and each time have played the hosts. It makes a big difference to players when they are playing in front of their own crowd."

"I think England will do well and also West Germany but I don't think Holland have anything to fear. We still have some very good players and work together as a team. This has always been our way."

Thijssen continues to impress at club level and the Ipswich fans are now beginning to see the best of

him. He's a quality player in every respect and feels the move to England has helped him a lot. "I find there are fewer bad tackles, especially from behind," he says, "and this is good because I am able to get on with the game."

"I would say the game in England is harder but also fairer. It is good for players like myself who do a lot of work on the ball. And there is a better atmosphere with bigger crowds."

"I have no regrets. At first I thought coming to England would definitely mean no more international honours. But instead I think it has helped me start all over again."



Rene van der Kerkhof scores the winner in Holland's 3-2 victory over East Germany.

New Lives for Old Stars



DAVID SADLER

FROM European Cup-winning defender to branch manager of a Chester building society may seem an unusual progression for an international footballer, but that is exactly the path taken by former Manchester United favourite David Sadler.

David's playing days came to an end in May, 1977, when he followed the doctor's advice to call it a day because of a recurring knee injury.

Then he was with Preston, under his former United teammate Nobby Stiles, but it was through connections he had made while at Old Trafford that the offer of a new career was made.

"Obviously there are certain things in the game that I miss," says David. "But there are a lot of compensations in a job such as mine, and I am enjoying myself thoroughly."

"I am not an avid attendant of football anymore, but still keep in touch with my former United team-mates such as Bobby Charlton, Pat Crerand, Alex Stepney, Nobby Stiles and Francis Burns."

Looking back on his career, Sadler realises there were more than a few highlights. "Becoming the first English team to win the European Cup in 1968, winning four caps for England and making the trip to Mexico for the 1970 World Cup."

"Although I was in the original squad of 28, I didn't make the final 22. But Peter Thompson and myself decided to stay out there and watch some of the world's greatest players in action. It was a marvellous experience."

No. 12

What do you know about the police?

C.I.D.

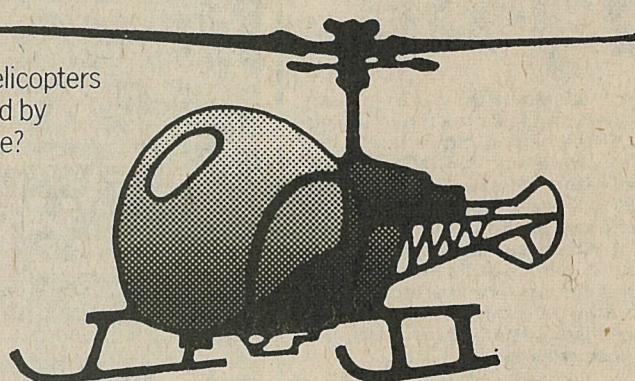
1. What does "C.I.D." stand for?



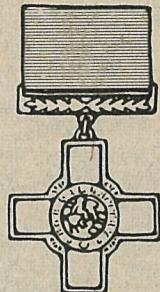
2. Is a chequered cap band the sign of a particular Police rank?

3. How many Police officers are there in England & Wales?
 a) Over 20,000
 b) Over 50,000
 c) Over 100,000

4. Are helicopters ever used by the Police?



5. Which is the highest award for bravery given in the Police?



This is the twelfth in a series depicting the background, present-day work and development of Britain's Police Force.

For further information about the Police write to:-

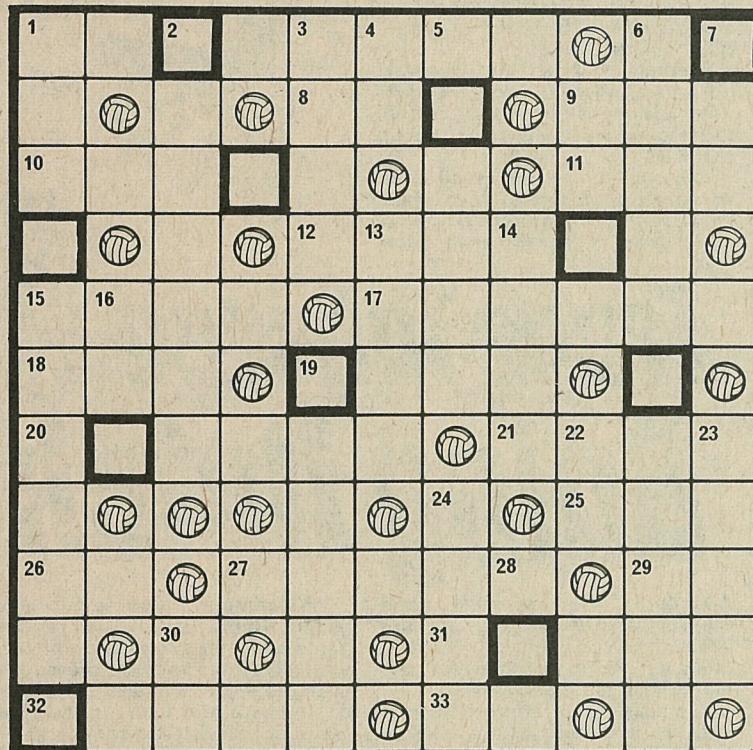
**Police Quiz, (J80), Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT.**

- 1. Criminal investigation
- 2. No, all ranks in the Police
- 3. C
- 4. Yes, they are hired from private firms
- 5. The George Cross
- 6. War chequered cap bands

ANSWERS

Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a Wolves striker. Answers on page 27.

**ACROSS:**

- (1 & 3 Down) Ground of Watford F.C.
- (6) Rug-- Park, Kilmarnock.
- (8) Number of goals scored in the 1978/79 European Cup Final.
- (9) Emlyn --gh-s, Wolves & England defender.
- (10) — Park, home of a Birmingham club.
- (11) ---hur Albiston, Manchester United.
- (12) John --, Derby County striker.
- (15) Br-a- T--bot (Arsenal). "Fastener" from the missing letters.
- (17) Noises.
- (18) Phil -w--r, Welsh international.
- (19) "Retain" in the sense that Peter Shilton would!
- (20) G----r Keega-, Oldham. 'Journey' from the omissions.
- (21) David -tr--er, Cambridge defender.
- (25) ---rta. Which word completes the Dutch League club.
- (26) Graham M--eley (Brighton). The omissions in reverse.
- (27) Put in the net.
- (29) Fulh-- from Craven Cottage.
- (31) M--k L--r-nson, Brighton. 'Conscious' from the omissions.
- (32) ---tingham For--t, League Cup winners 1978-79.
- (33) David --bb of Derby County.

DOWN:

- (1) Nottingham Forest full-back. (3 & 8)
- (2) Gary —, Coventry.
- (3) See 1 Across.
- (4) John Ry-- of Norwich.
- (5) Terry —, Southampton goalie.
- (6) Bolton Wanderers ground. (7 & 4)
- (7) T-n-cas-le Park; Hearts ground.
- (9) Arie ----, famous player for Ajax and Holland.
- (13) Employed.
- (14) What every club hopes to win.
- (16) — United; Scottish Div. One club from Somerset Park.
- (19) Sharp blows.
- (22) Gordon Ch--holm of Sunderland.
- (23) --ry --gson, currently on loan at Everton.
- (24) Worth one point.
- (28) Moth-r--ll play at Fir Park.
- (30) Terry Yor--h of Spurs.

**GO FOR SHOOT
EVERY WEEK**
*Britain's
biggest selling
soccer magazine*

WITH all due respect to the Football Association, surely only the League Cup could produce two such potentially intriguing Semi-Final ties as those which kick-off this Wednesday (Jan 16).

Although the sudden death excitement of a place at Wembley is lost by the more tactical game necessary for a two-leg affair, what could be more exciting than a meeting between League Champions Liverpool and European Champions Nottingham Forest than two games between the deadly rivals?

And after four successive all-first Division League Cup Finals, the prospect of another 'David and Goliath' Wembley upset is an added bonus provided by the presence of Third Division Swindon in the last four.

And can Andy Gray, Britain's costliest player at £1.5 million, repeat his 1977 Aston Villa success with his new club Wolves?

Nottingham Forest are the only club in the 19-year history of the League Cup to win two consecutive Finals. They became the first team to successfully defend the title when they beat Southampton 3-2 in last season's Wembley showpiece after beating Liverpool 12 months earlier.

Now they are defending a 23-game unbeaten run in their efforts to attain a hat-trick.

Capture

First, they have to beat Liverpool, a side determined to capture the only domestic honour to have eluded them.

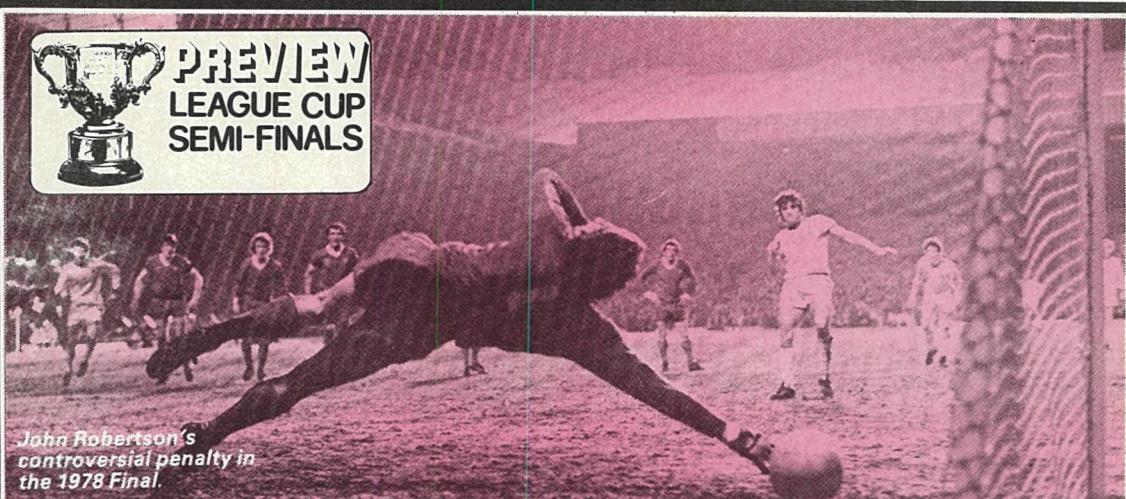
Ever since a U.E.F.A. Cup spot has been on offer to the League Cup winners, the First Division giants have accepted the competition as more than just an insignificant distraction from the 'real thing' — the F.A. Cup.

Yet even now the League Cup continues to be treated as the poor relation.

Considering the Second Round of this season's competition was made a two-legged affair for the first time, it might have been expected that the prospects of a lower Division club reaching Wembley would be diminished.

Yet for some inexplicable reason the League Cup seems to smile benignly on those least likely to.

Swindon's Andy Rowland scores the winning goal against Arsenal.



PREVIEW LEAGUE CUP SEMI-FINALS

John Robertson's controversial penalty in the 1978 Final.

Forest aiming for historic hat-trick

Last season Watford captured the hearts and imagination of all but the most partisan with a run to the last four, basking in the limelight of stirring victories over Newcastle, Stoke and Manchester United.

The dream ended when they were beaten by Nottingham Forest in the Semi-Finals, but this season Third Division Swindon are hoping to go one better against the multi-million pound talents of a new-look Wolves.

In 1969, Swindon upset all the odds with a memorable 3-1 victory over mighty Arsenal at Wembley.

Then, as now, they were a Third Division side, and their spectacular Quarter-Final victory over The Gunners last month has convinced the County Ground faithful that history will repeat itself.

In 1969 Don Rogers was the undoubted hero, after scoring two goals in the Final. This time the emphasis will not be on the

individuals but on a 100 per cent team effort.

Wolves, having been taken to three games by Grimsby in the Quarter-Finals, have looked convincing only in the Third Round, when they won 2-1 at Crystal Palace.

That result apart, they have struggled to beat Burnley and Q.P.R. Their susceptibility to supposedly lower-class opposition could prove their undoing.

The first-leg at the County Ground will produce a capacity crowd, a restricting atmosphere, probable record receipts and the perfect setting for a giantkilling.

Which is more than can be said for the Forest-Liverpool encounter at the City Ground.

Certainly there will be the capacity crowds, the atmosphere and lucrative takings, but whichever of England's two most prestigious clubs eventually triumphs will be no giantkillers.

Liverpool are back to their magnificent peak after a distinct hiccup in the first few months of the season. Forest are attempting to re-discover their form after a disappointing run up to the hectic Christmas period.

Yet Brian Clough's magic can never be overlooked. If any man is capable of masterminding Liverpool's downfall, it is he.

When the Semi-Final draw was made it seemed a terrible injustice that these two masters of modern football could not meet in the perfect setting — Wembley.

But perhaps a two-legged meeting will prove a fairer test.

Breathtaking

When they met at Wembley two seasons ago, the football they produced was intriguing but never breathtaking. It will always be the case when two such evenly matched sides clash.

When genius meets genius, their sparkling talents often cancel each other out.

Shilton v Clemence, Dalglish v Francis, Thompson v Burns and McDermott v Robertson. How do you choose between them?

Liverpool will be doubly-determined to beat their old adversaries this time. They still remember the controversial penalty awarded against them in the replay of the 1978 Final.

Recent results have swayed ever so slightly in Liverpool's favour, and current form also gives Bob Paisley's men the edge.

Liverpool are favourites with the bookies to reach Wembley, so are Wolves. Forest and Swindon would not agree with those odds.

Only one thing is certain. This Wednesday's League Cup Semi-Final first-legs will be undoubtedly thrillers. The return legs on February 13 should prove even more fascinating.



Dates of Rounds

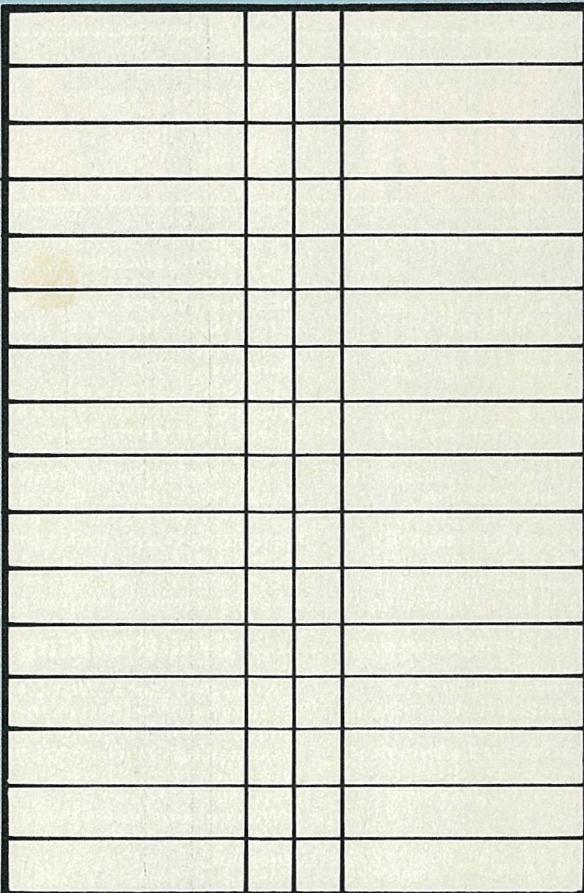
F.A. CUP

Third Round.....	January 5th
Fourth Round.....	January 26th
Fifth Round.....	February 16th
Sixth Round	March 8th
Semi-Finals	April 12th
Final	May 10th

SCOTTISH CUP

Second Round	January 5th
Third Round.....	January 26th
Fourth Round	February 16th
Fifth Round.....	March 8th
Semi-Finals	April 12th
Final	May 10th

F.A.Cup 4th.Round Scottish Cup 3rd.Round



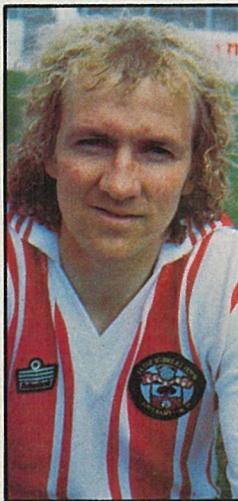
F.A.Cup Wins

Aston Villa 7, Blackburn Rovers 6, Newcastle United 6, Arsenal 5, The Wanderers 5, Tottenham Hotspur 5, WBA 5, Sheffield United 4, Bolton Wanderers 4, Manchester City 4, Manchester United 4, Wolves 4, Sheffield Wednesday 3, Everton 3, Bury 2, Old Etonians 2, Preston North End 2, Nottingham Forest 2, Sunderland 2, West Ham United 2, Liverpool 2, Barnsley 1, Blackburn Olympic 1, Blackpool 1, Bradford City 1, Burnley 1, Cardiff City 1, Charlton Athletic 1, Chelsea 1, Clapham Rovers 1, Derby County 1, Huddersfield Town 1, Notts County 1, Old Carthusians 1, Oxford University 1, Portsmouth 1, Royal Engineers 1, Leeds United 1, Southampton 1, Ipswich Town 1.

Scottish Cup Wins

Celtic 25, Rangers 23, Queen's Park 10, Hearts 5, Clyde 3, Vale of Leven 3, Aberdeen 2, Dunfermline 2, Falkirk 2, Hibernian 2, Kilmarnock 2, Renton 2, St Mirren 2, Third Lanark 2, Airdrie 1, Dumbarton 1, Dundee 1, East Fife 1, Morton 1, Motherwell 1, Partick 1, St Bernard's 1.

WALLO



Southampton's David Peach (left) is one of only two players still at The Dell who played in the 1976 Final. Celtic's Jimmy Johnstone sets off on a run through the Dundee United defence in the 1974 Scottish Cup Final at Hampden Park. Celtic won 3-0.



Kevin Keegan scored twice for Liverpool in the 3-0 defeat of Newcastle in the 1974 F.A. Cup Final. Here he tries an overhead kick despite John Tudor's challenge. Peter Reid of Bolton (right) would love to make a similar impact in this year's competition.

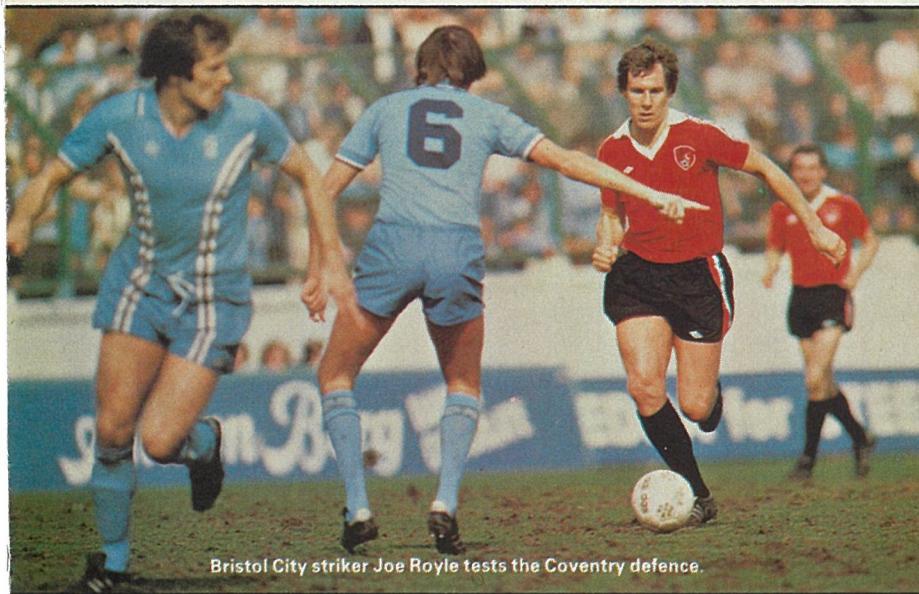


Kilmarnock have not won the Scottish Cup since 1929, but John Bourke (left) could help change all that. Pictured right is Alan Taylor after scoring for West Ham against Fulham in the 1975 Final at Wembley. He was the last player to score twice in an F.A. Cup Final.

CHART 1980



Arthur Graham of Leeds has the skill and speed necessary to reach Wembley, as he shows here against Brighton.



Bristol City striker Joe Royle tests the Coventry defence.



David Langan clears the ball for Derby watched by Everton's Geoff Nutley.

Everton's Mark Higgins wants an England cap

AFTER consistently challenging for the leadership of the First Division in recent years, Everton's form this season has surprised many experts as they struggle to escape the lower reaches of the table.

So it comes as something of a shock to hear centre-half Mark Higgins proclaim: "This is my best season to date."

His reasons for such a statement are apparent. "This is my first uninterrupted run in the side since I was drafted into the team three seasons ago," explains the 21-year-old defender who is rapidly making a name for himself in an otherwise slumbering Everton line-up.

"My confidence is sky high, and I seem to be improving with every game. For the first time in my career I am looking to create moves instead of just concentrating on breaking them down."

The son of former Bolton Wanderers stopper Jack Higgins, Mark has already earned England honours at Schoolboy and Youth international level. Now he is looking to continue the progression.

"I felt I was in line for a call-up to the England Under-21 side last season, but was injured just when the candidates were being scrutinised.

'Delighted'

"Billy Wright was playing so well in my place for Everton that he got the nod from Under-21 boss Dave Sexton after only six games. Obviously it was a disappointment for me, but I was delighted for Billy. But I'm still young enough."

And that dream could well become a reality. Previously Wright and Higgins had only hindered each other's international prospects, for when one was occupying the centre-half's berth at Everton alongside Mike Lyons, the other had to adapt to a new position or drop into the reserves.

But this season they have forged such a fine understanding at the heart of the defence, that it is former skipper Lyons who has been the odd-man-out.

"My ultimate ambition is to play for the full England side," Higgins continues. "I've looked around, and there aren't as many centre-halves knocking about as there are for other positions. All I've got to do is to keep on playing the way I am at the moment and hope for the best."

Yet Higgins realises that while Everton are struggling, the chances of him fulfilling those

ambitions are remote.

"To finish second is nothing; we've got to be tops. We haven't been outclassed by anybody this season, it's just that we have given away too many stupid goals, and as a defender that has got to be partially my fault."

"It is just a case of everybody playing to their full potential and things will really take off."

The brunt of the criticism for Everton's inconsistent form this season has fallen squarely on the shoulders of manager Gordon Lee, but Higgins is quick to his defence.

"When a team is not playing well it is always the manager who takes the blame.

"Manager Gordon Lee is a super guy. People say this and that about him, but to me he's been great.

"We are under constant pressure from Liverpool, who to my mind are the greatest side in the world. But Gordon Lee takes that pressure off us players and just lets us get out there and play.

"All this talk of internal strife at Everton is rubbish. We simply hope that we can get it right again for the fans, the club itself and for the boss."



YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

1

A player intentionally controls the ball with the top of his arm. Should you award a free-kick?



2

You attempt to stop play for an off-side infringement but your whistle does not work. The off-side player then scores. After changing your whistle, should you: (a) drop the ball, (b) award a goal, or (c) award a free-kick for off-side?

3

A player retaliates after having his hair pulled and strikes the opponent. Should you: (a) send the first player off, (b) warn both players, or (c) send both players off?



4

A player is injured when he falls over a photographer's equipment. Can you order the photographer to be removed when he is outside the field of play?



5

In a local League match a team arrives late. You know that if the match starts it will not be completed before darkness falls. Should you start the match?



ANSWERS

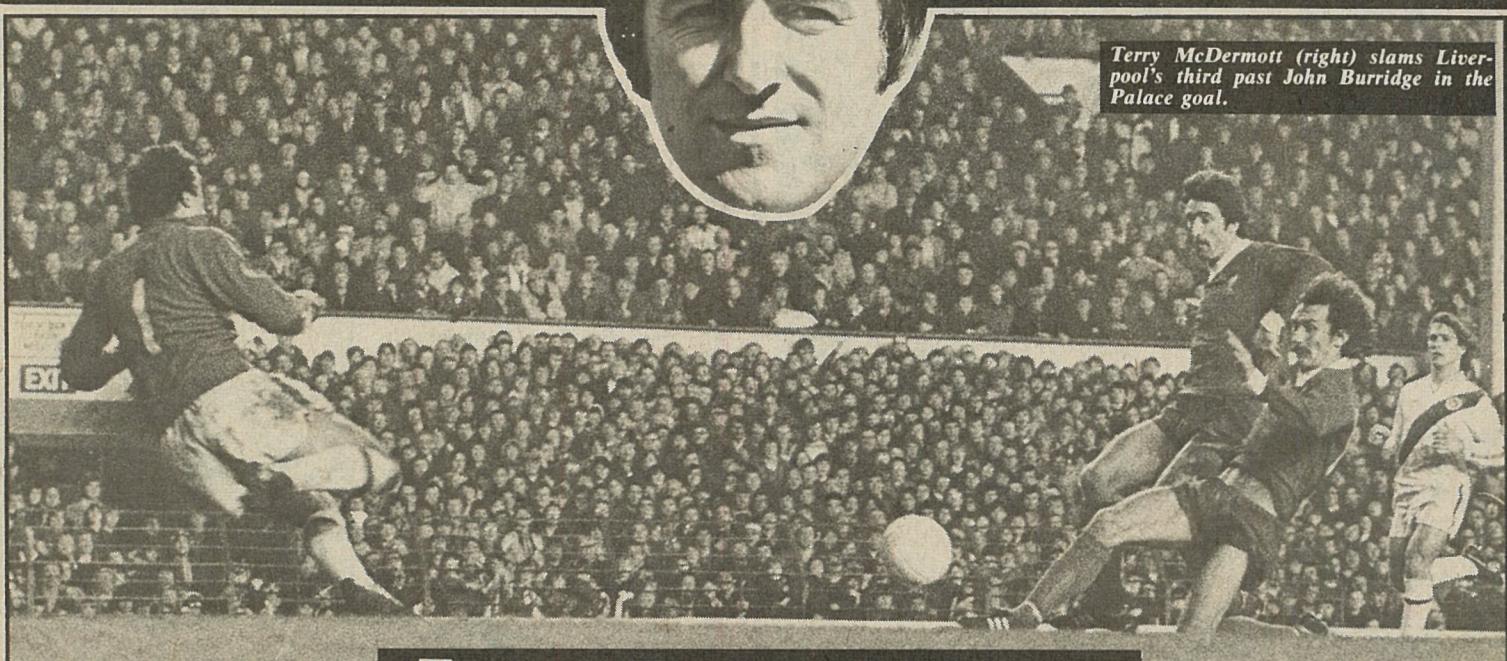
1. Yes. 2. Award a free-kick for off-side (c). 3. Send both players off (c). 4. Yes. In all League matches there is a specially-marked line which ensures nobody encroaches as it can be dangerous for the players. 5. Yes. You must ensure nobody encroaches near the touch-lines and photographer is allowed near the touch-lines. No

photographers must stay behind. No

VENNERS'

VERDICT

Terry McDermott (right) slams Liverpool's third past John Burridge in the Palace goal.



LIVERPOOL will win the First Division Championship and extend their stranglehold on the trophy to a record 12 titles.

The only proviso in making this pronouncement halfway through a fascinating season of cut-and-thrust football is that I am excluding Crystal Palace's chance of honours from my assessment of possible Champions.

Never bet against your own team, do you?

Liverpool get my vote after Palace's confrontation against the "big three" in the First Division. We beat Nottingham Forest 1-0 at Selhurst Park, drew with Manchester United at Old Trafford after leading through David Swindell's goal; and came a cropper 3-0 at Liverpool.

All three are fine sides — but Liverpool are the best. Two 'killer' goals, Jimmy Case's a minute before the interval, and Kenny Dalglish's virtuoso effort three minutes after half-time, dashed our hopes.

Impressed

Until then we believed we might hold Bob Paisley's men. Terry McDermott's third goal just after the hour did much to confirm my belief that Liverpool skipper Phil Thompson will hoist the Championship trophy above his head at the end of the season.

I asked the Palace lads after the game what impressed them most about this Liverpool side. To a man they said Liverpool's ability to close down on players quickly had destroyed our hopes of building attacks.

"You get the ball but before you can think about where to pass it, their players are hounding you for possession," was typical of the remarks made by my players.

The industry, inventiveness and sheer power of Liverpool is a credit to British club football. Would you

'There are no stars at Liverpool'

believe that hard work is fully acceptable at Anfield?

A key to their stunning success under Bob Paisley's shrewd guidance, and before that Bill Shankly, is that the "chorus line" is just as important as the "star".

There is no such thing as a "star system" at Liverpool. They have no time for prima donnas, players exempt from graft and slog because they believe their precious skills should protect them from such toil and unpleasantness.

Kenny Dalglish is as willing as the next man to run 50 yards to make a tackle. Nothing is too much trouble for a Liverpool player. That's their secret.

Another crucial factor in their favour is that despite the breathtaking ball skills possessed by most of Liverpool's first team players, they are never selfish on the ball.

Excuse me for mentioning him again, but Dalglish resists the temptation to sell dummies and dribble frantically through packed defences if he can see that another player is 'on' for a first time pass. He'll get rid of it as fast as a villain handling stolen watches in a pub.

Terry McDermott typifies the importance of running without the ball. I have preached for years the

need for my players to receive the ball, pass it, and move; receive it, pass it, and move ... Liverpool play this to perfection, none better than McDermott.

A London newspaper columnist invited nicknames for the Liverpool midfield general. Most popular tag for Terry was "Dynamac".

I must confess that my players were a little overawed at playing at Anfield. By the time we kicked off, 42,000 fans had pressed through the turnstiles.

Their support is as fanatical as that reserved for the Pope when he makes one of his appearances in St Peter's Square. If familiarity is supposed to breed contempt, that yardstick hardly applies to the love affair between the Kop and the club.

Yes it's hardly surprising Liverpool enjoy such support. Leafing back through my record books, I've worked out that in the past 11 seasons, excluding this one, Liverpool have lost only 82 League games in 462 matches — an average of only seven defeats a season.

I've preached the importance of strong local support at Palace — and Liverpool's following confirms my belief that if a club is to be successful it must have strong

support as well as a fine team.

34,000 spectators watched us play Nottingham Forest at Selhurst Park in December. That's more like it. A team riding high in the First Division deserves that support.

I want to stress that Palace's players respond enthusiastically to a large attendance. We're delighted with the following we get away from home and there is no doubt that the shout of "Eagles" from the terraces lifts the hearts of the players.

It didn't surprise me when Alan Ball wanted to leave Southampton because of barracking from a minority of uncouth fans. No player gives more effort than Alan. I'm surprised the fans don't appreciate his contribution.

Delighted

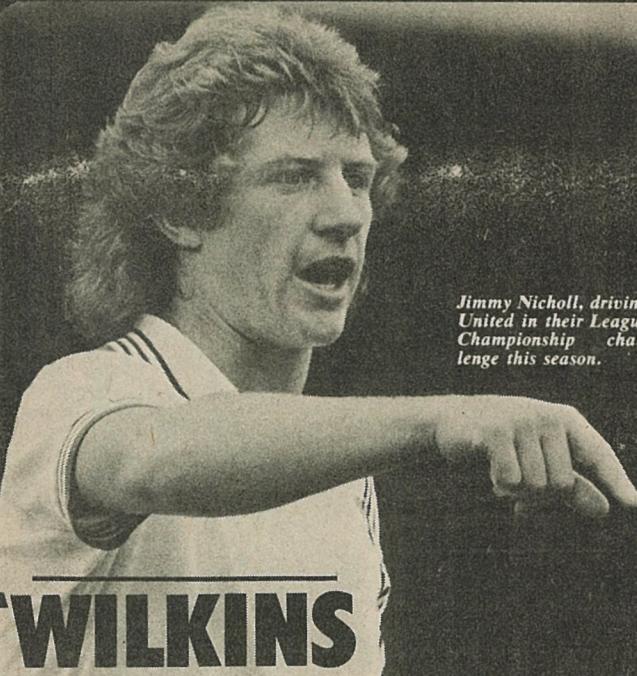
I have signed a four-year contract to lead Crystal Palace into the 1980's. It is no secret that the Cosmos made a bid to lure me across the Atlantic. I was delighted to be asked even though I declined the opportunity to go to the States.

The day clubs stop ringing me up offering me jobs will be the day I quit.

Meanwhile, I'm pressing on to make Palace as good as Liverpool. Thumbing the pages of my trusty old football almanac again, I take heart from the League tables of 1960-61. First were Ipswich, second Sheffield United, third Liverpool.

The top three ... in the Second Division!

Terry McDermott



Jimmy Nicholl, driving United in their League Championship challenge this season.

WILKINS the key to UNITED'S REVIVAL'

says Jimmy Nicholl

JIMMY Nicholl, Manchester United's Northern Ireland international right-back, admits that he is a trifle surprised by his club's tremendous performances this season.

"I honestly didn't think we would do this well," he says. "I didn't enjoy one match last season and we played so badly at Old Trafford at times that the players couldn't wait to get away from the place."

"Now we can't get in fast enough. We've played really well at home and we have been picking up points away from home, too. In fact, we ought to have had more points than we have in away matches."

One of the main reasons for the United revival this season, says Nicholl, is the England form of new arrival Ray Wilkins. He has made a major contribution in midfield.

"He moves into attacking positions and manages a few shots at goal, whilst remaining our anchor-man in midfield."

"Last year, we were relying too heavily on Sammy McIlroy. Now he has more freedom to go on those attacking runs, which is the best part of his game."

Although Nicholl has been surprised by how well his team have done, he now feels they are genuine candidates for the Championship.

"At the start of the season, I could see half a dozen teams being involved in the title race. Then I thought it narrowed down to Liverpool, Forest and ourselves."

"Now I think it's just us or Liver-

pool. Obviously Forest aren't a bad side just because of a few defeats. But it's hard to come back after some of the heavy beatings they've had."

"Some of the football United have been serving up this season has been as exciting as that under Tommy Docherty."

Under Dave Sexton's management, United have generally been more cautious. But at times, as when they thrashed Norwich 5-0, they've shown all the flair they had under The Doc.

"That game against Norwich was one of the best performances I remember from us for some time.

"Under The Doc, we played with lots of enthusiasm because we were a much younger side then. Now we are playing with more experience and it shows."

United managed to maintain their pace at the top in the early part of the season, despite losing Scottish international striker Joe Jordan for two months.

Available

"You always miss someone like Joe. He's a great player, he gets down the wings and he is always available. He is not a bad fellow to have on your side."

Nicholl first got into the United team under Docherty. He was just coming up to his 18th birthday when he was called in to face Southampton in a Second Division match. He came on as substitute after Martin Buchan was injured.

The season after, he played up until Christmas in the First Division. "Then Tommy Docherty dropped me because he thought things were getting a bit too much for me."

"But the year after, I played the full season and I've been there near enough ever since."

"It's just a question of confidence, really. I've got confidence in myself and all the team are playing with it, too."

"Once you've got that, you're capable of doing anything. And I am hoping we will be able to carry off the biggest prize of them all at the end of the season."

WHAT a difference a year makes. Last January, we were in the middle of the Big Freeze and I was nursing torn knee ligaments, unable to play, anyway. Relegation was very much on the cards for Chelsea and I wondered what the future held for me.

Now, I'm with a side that stands a very good chance of winning the title and I can look forward to the European Championship with England in June.

The tail-end of last season was awful, because once relegation was certain, the heart went out of Chelsea. There was nothing to play for and motivation was difficult.

It was agreed that a move would be in the best interest of both parties and I joined the England squad for the British Championship unsure about my future.

I put all this behind me and it was — as always — satisfying to beat Scotland for the Home title. Two things give me great pleasure: beating Scotland at football and seeing the Australians beaten at cricket. I'm glad to say Mike Brearley and company have been doing reasonably well Down Under.

I don't know why it is, but both



Scotland and Australia have a fanatical attitude towards beating England. This has rubbed off on to the English, although at Wembley last May we did it the hard way.

What pleased me most was coming back from a goal down. Once Scotland have their noses in front, they can be hard to overcome. Peter Barnes equalised with a soft goal on the stroke of half-time and then a mistake by George Wood enabled Steve Coppell to make it 2-1, before Kevin Keegan put the issue beyond doubt.

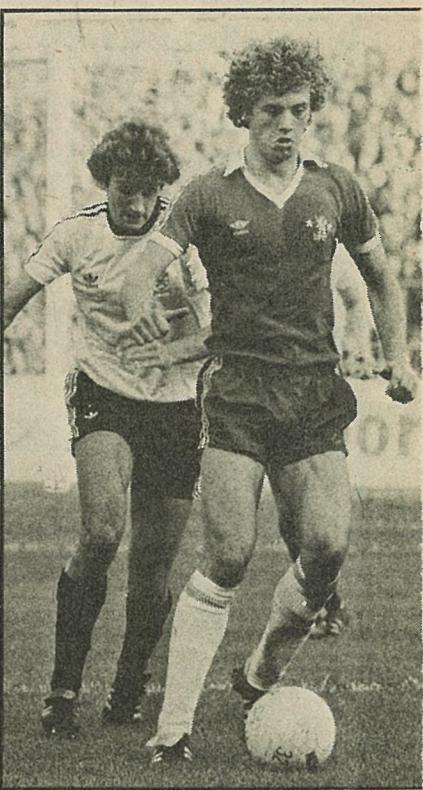
I said in a column last season that I was glad I didn't play for Leeds or Manchester United, as they have so many Scots it must have been unbearable for the English lads, Scotland having played in the World Cup with us missing out. To my amazement, some readers took this light-hearted remark literally and wrote asking why I joined United!

It was, of course, just a joke, as there is big rivalry in dressing-rooms between the Scottish and English players, especially at those clubs who have internationals.

We give each other merciless 'stick' and I'm glad to report it's the English players who have been handing it out lately.

I must also report — an exclusive "transfer", this, for SHOOT — that Lou Macari has joined England. Yes, little Lou is a fan of Ron's Army and was heard to say that he's on the road with Ron Greenwood!

One thing we never have at Old Trafford is England v Scotland in five-a-sides. That would be tempting fate. We had a Tall v Short the other



ABOVE . . . "I'm happy to see youngsters such as Gary Johnson helping Chelsea to push for promotion."

BELOW . . . "Steve Coppell makes it 2-1 against Scotland at Wembley."



day, although as we had Tommy Cavanagh on our side we were lacking a bit of pace! Jimmy Nicholl managed to work his way into the Big team, alongside the likes of Joe Jordan and Gordon McQueen. I'm not telling you the result though!

After beating Scotland, England left for the tour of Bulgaria, Sweden and Austria. The 3-0 win in Bulgaria was one of the best results since I came into the set-up and it took the pressure off us, allowing us to enjoy the tour.

Sadly, the drab, goalless draw in Sweden was an anti-climax — it was like an end-of-season League game with nothing at stake. The boss made quite a few changes, to give all the players a game, and this

rebounded on him a little as the balance of the side was disrupted.

I believe he has said that he won't make as many alterations again although under the circumstances most managers would probably have done the same. Also, had we won nothing would have been said.

From Stockholm to Austria, where the game was as exciting as the Sweden match was dull. We were caught napping in the first-half, but showed our character by fighting back, only to lose 4-3. Had we drawn, no one could have said it was undeserved.

It was a strange close-season for me, with almost daily rumours that I

ours with United, be it this season, next season or in the future.

I still haven't fully come to terms with being a Manchester United player. It's difficult to believe just how big they are — far more than a football club, really. The fans are incredible — they treat the players like gods. There are something like 100 official supporters' clubs in the U.K., alone, while in Malta, for instance, there is also a thriving following.

The way the fans get behind the players has to be experienced to appreciate fully their value. If we are almost unbeatable at Old Trafford, our supporters must take

vidual stands out above the others.

My hopes for 1979/80 are for United to win the League and Chelsea to win promotion, because I still have a lot of feeling for the Stamford Bridge club and those associated with it.

One disturbing aspect of 1979 was the continued exodus of our star players to the Continent. And I believe the 80's will see us losing even more big names to Europe.

I don't blame Tony Woodcock for

going to Cologne. As he said to me, the chance may never come up again and it's the ideal opportunity to broaden his experience and secure his future.

I can't understand the resentment some people have towards footballers earning a lot of money. Surely everyone should have the right to better themselves and if the fans REALLY were fans of the player concerned, they'd want him to do what is best for himself and his family.

The new rulings means our players are obtainable cheaply — it's strange to think that Arsenal will receive less than a quarter of Liam Brady's home value of £2 million.

Just space to mention our game at Middlesbrough this Saturday (January 12th) . . . and I hope you'll join me again in a fortnight.

Paymet

'UNITED ARE MORE THAN JUST A CLUB'



was signing for this club or that. As pre-season training began, I'd resigned myself to staying with Chelsea for another season until the end of my contract. Chelsea and United couldn't seem to agree on a fee and the whole business was dragging on.

Thankfully, the clubs DID reach an agreement and the transfer couldn't have worked out better. I was asked recently if I honestly thought United would be topping the table and challenging for the Championship, as in recent seasons they'd been inconsistent in the League.

When I signed for the club, I looked upon it as a long-term investment. I was sure I'd win hon-

much of the credit for this.

My fan-mail has shot up and I receive many invitations to dinners and presentations. I do my best to oblige where I can, but United are so big I could find myself somewhere every night of the week.

I like to think playing for United has improved me as a player. First, the competition for places is fierce — even someone like Gordon McQueen found his deputy, Kevin Moran, doing such a good job he didn't win back his place automatically after injury.

I have less responsibility than I did at Chelsea, where people looked to me when things weren't going well. United have so many top-class players no single indi-



LINE-UPS... RESULTS... SCORERS...

Saturday, November 24

F. A. Cup

(First Round, continued)

ROCHDALE (2) 2 (Hart, Jones)
SCUNTHORPE (1) 1 (Pilling) 1,985
 Rochdale; Watson; Hallows, Snookes, Hart, Bannon, O'Loughlin, Esser, Wann, Seal, Hilditch, Jones.
Scunthorpe: Gordon; Davy, Peacock, Deere, Oates, Kavanagh (Green), Partridge, Pilling, Cowling, Cammack, Keeley.

SALISBURY (0) 1 (Hibbs)
MILLWALL (2) 2 (Mitchell, Donaldson) (at Southampton) 8,805
 Salisbury: Wilshire; Dowthwaite, Coak, Haliam, Lock, Verity, Lennard, Christopher, Hibbs, Fry, Ashton.
Millwall: Jackson; Donaldson, Kinsella, Chatterton, Blyth, Tagg, Towner, Seasman, Mitchell, Lyons (Kitchener), Mehmet.

SHEFF. WED. (1) 3 (Smith pen, King, McCulloch)
LINCOLN (0) 0 11,226
Sheff. Wed.: Bolder; Blackhall, Grant, Pickering, Smith, Hornsby, Porterfield, King, Mellor, McCulloch, Wyde.
Lincoln: Grotier; Guest, Neale, Watson, Saunders, Peake, Hobson, Carr, Harford, Cunningham, Cockerill.

SLOUGH (0) 3 (Turl, Feely, Russell)
HUNGERFORD (0) 1 (Farr) 900
 Slough: Teale; Turl, MacKay, Reardon, Young, Wharton, Russell, Feely, Lee, Friend, Kiely.
Hungerford: Greenwood; Angell, Farmiloe, Turner, Duffy, McMahon, Ingram, Phillips, Young, Farr, Reilly.

STAFFORD (1) 3 (Seddon, Howell o.g., Chapman)
MOOR GREEN (0) 2 (Howell, Clamp pen.) 2,000
Stafford: Edwards; Wood, Nixon, Jackson, Seddon, Loska, Secker, Chapman, Proudlove, Cullerton, Chadwick.
Moor Green: Woottton; Clamp, Niblett, Tattum, Kavanagh, Conneh, Stanton, Hawkins, Wright, Rossi, Howell.

SWINDON (4) 4 (Miller 2, Kamara, Carter)
BRENTFORD (0) 1 (Smith) 9,472
Swindon: Allan; Lewis, Ford, McHale, Carter, Stroud, Miller, Kamara, Rowland, Mayes, Williams.
Brentford: Bond; Salman, Tucker, McNichol, Kruse, Fraser, Carlton, Graham (Shrubb), Smith, Alder, Phillips.

TRANMERE (3) 9 (Jones o.g., Lumby 3, O'Neill 2, 1 pen., Evans 2, Beamish)
AP LEAMINGTON (0) 0 2,114
 Tranmere: Johnson; Mathias, Flood (Mungall), Bramhall, Edwards, Evans, O'Neill, Parry, Peplow, Lumby, Beamish.
AP Leamington: Dulleston; Morton, Montgomery, Jones, Kilkelly (Brown), Cooper, Taylor, Gorman, Briscoe, Vincent, Gardner.

WALSALL (1) 2 (Penn, Paul)
STOCKPORT (0) 0 4,959
 Walsall: Green; Macken, Mower, Sbragia, Serella, Paul, Penn, Waddington, McDonough, Buckley, Caswell.
Stockport: Lawson; Rutter, Sherlock, Fogarty, Czuczman, Chapman, Lovell, Bradd, Henson, Park, Galvin.

WEALDSTONE (0) 0
SOUTHEND (0) 1 (Walker) 3,100
 Wealdstone: Cranston; Brannigan, Pearce, Watson, Horgan, Wainwright, Barwick, Moss, Cordice, Johnson (N), Johnson (C).
Southend: Cawston; Dudley, Moody, Walker, Stead, Pountney, Hadley, Morris, Otułakowski, Parker, Hull.



George Best makes his Hibs debut at St. Mirren.

Scottish Premier

DUNDEE (2) 3 (Pirie, Sinclair, Shirra)
RANGERS (0) 1 (Jackson) 13,342
Dundee: Donaldson; McGechie, Schaefer, Millar, Glennie, McLaren, Mackie, Sinclair, Pirie, Shirra, Murphy.
Rangers: McCloy; Forsyth, Dawson, Jardine, Jackson, Stevens, McLean (Watson), MacDonald (A), Johnstone, Smith (Russell), McDonald (J).

ST. MIRREN (1) 2 (Bone, Somner)
HIBS (0) 1 (Best) 13,670
St. Mirren: Thomson; Young, Munro, Richardson, Fulton, Copland, Bone, Stark, Somner, McDougall, Abercrombie.
Hibs: McDonald; Brazil, Duncan, Rae, Patterson, McNamara, Callaghan, MacLeod, Ward (Hutchinson), Higgins (McGinley), Best.

Scottish First

AIRDRIE (4) 4 (McCulloch 3, Gordon)
ST. JOHNSTONE (1) 2 (Brogan, Law-Lawson) 3,000

BERWICK (1) 2 (Tait 2)
AYR (1) 4 (Frye 2, Christie 2) 980

DUMBARTON (1) 2 (Gallagher B, Sharp)
DUNFERMLINE (0) 1 (O'Brien) 1,050

HEARTS (1) 2 (Shaw, Gibson)
MOTHERWELL (0) 1 (Carberry) 4,800

STIRLING (1) 2 (Kennedy A., Steel)
CLYDE (1) 1 (Dolan) 700
Clydebank v Arbroath postponed.

Scottish Second

COWDENBEATH (0) 0
FALKIRK (0) 0 1,000

FORFAR (3) 3 (Robb 2, Clark)
STRANRAER (0) 0 800

MEADOWBANK (0) 2 (Jobson pen, Kelly)
ALLOA (0) 1 (McIntosh) 250

MONTROSE (1) 2 (Beedie, Murray)
BRECHIN (2) 2 (Campbell I., Campbell R) 950

Q o S (1) 3 (Phillips 2, Robertson)
QUEEN'S PARK (0) 2 (Wood, Gilspie) 600

STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 2 (Jack, Hancock)
E. FIFE (0) 0 350

E. STIRLING v ALBION postponed.

Irish League

BALLYMENA UTD (2) 2 (Tully, McQuiston)

PORTADOWN (0) 1 (Alexander)

Ballymena Utd: White; Beattie, Fox, McCullagh, Jackson, Tully, Mullan, Sloan, McQuiston, Malone, Jess.

Portadown: McCollum; Smyth, Edgar, Wilson, Kilburn, Cleary, Gordon, Beck (Graham), Alexander, Campbell, Gardiner.

BANGOR (1) 4 (Duddy 2, Barrett, McCoubrey)

LARNE (1) 2 (Graham, McManus)

Bangor: Irwin; Feeney, McKim, Rollins (Dickinson), Harrison, Cummings, Lennox, McCullagh, Barrett, McCoubrey, Duddy.

Larne: Coburn; Wilson, Cleland, Graham, Garland, McManus, Barkley (Galway), McAuley, King, Devine, L'Estrange.

COLERAINE (1) 1 (Dickson)

GLENTORAN (2) 3 (Ron McCreery, Blackledge, Jamieson)

Coleraine: Magee; McNutt, McDowell (R), McCandless, Hutton, McDowell (S), Lamberton, Healey, Platt, Dickson, Moffatt.

Glentoran: Matthews; McCreery Rab, Lissie, Walsh, Porter, Gracey, Irvine, McCreery Ron, Blackledge, Manley, Jamieson.

CRUSADERS (1) 1

DISTILLERY (0) 2 (Richardson 2)

Crusaders: McDonald; Strain, Corr (Kenny), Mulhall, Gillespie, McPolin, Kennedy, Patterson, Malone, Currie, Rice.

Distillery: Moore; Ferris, McGreevy, Keatley, Greer, McAuley, McMinn, Magee, Richardson, White, Faloon.

GLENNAVON (1) 2

ARDS (1) 2 (Cullen (pen), Maxwell)

Glenavon: McCullough; Davey, Quinn, Stitt, Clarke, McGuigan, Denver (Sheppard), Smith, Armstrong, Neil, Higgins.

Ards: McCarron; Walker, Cromie, Cullen, McCoy, Gibson, Welsh, Martin, Patterson, Mowat, Maxwell.

LINFIELD (0) 1

CLIFTONVILLE (0) 0

Linfield: Dunlop; Fraser, Hayes, Jameson, Rafferty, McKeown, Nixon, McKee, McCurdy, Feeney, Anderson.

Cliftonville: Johnston; McGuigan, Largey, Flanagan, Quinn, McCurry, Erwin, Bell, Brown (Kingon), O'Connor, Adair.

Sunday, November 25

League of Ireland

DUNDALK (1) 1

ATHLONE TOWN (0) 1

Dundalk: Blackmore; McConville, Dunning Keeley, Lawlor (Martin), Flanagan, Byrne, Dainty, Devine, Lawlor (Mick), Daly.

Athlone Town: Smyth; Feniuk, Whelan, Fullam, Smith, O'Connor (P), Shelley, Clarke, Wyse (O'Connor (M)), Devlin, Davis (Salmon).

FINN HARPS (0) 2 (Collins, McLoughlin (J))

UCD (1) 1

UCD (1) 1 (Drury)
Finn Harps: McDermott; Ferry, Boyle, McDowell, Sheridan, Duffy, McCool, McLoughlin (C), Collins, McGrory, McLoughlin (J), Minnock, McGroarty.

UCD: McCabe; Cowhie (Doyle), Fox, Deeney, McDonnell, McGovern, Cassidy (McShane), Scully, Drury, Dignam, Moran.

GALWAY ROVERS (0) 1

CORK UNITED (0) 0

Galway Rovers: Lally; Herrick, McDaid, Sheehan, Murphy, Nolan, Gaynor, Cooke, Cassidy (Quinlivan), Collins, Mannion.

Cork Utd: Ludovic; Brohan, Lane (R), O'Mahony, Sheehan, Keane, Lane (J), Punch, Madden, Murphy, Morley.

ST PATRICK'S ATHLETIC: (1) 3 (Kirwan, Carthy, Breslin o.g.)

HOME FARM (1) 1

O'Neill: St Pat's: O'Brien; Higgins, Murphy, Doyle, Daly, Malone, Munnely, Browning, Jameson, Carthy, Kirwan.

Home Farm: Finnerty, Maher, Kelly, Breslin, Brady, Williams, Neville, King, O'Neill, Thomas, McCluskey.

SHAMROCK ROVERS (1) 1

CAMPBELL LIMERICK UNITED (1) 2 (Storan, Nolan)

Shamrock Rovers: O'Neill, Mulligan, Synott, O'Leary, Burke, Meagan, Gannon, Gaffney, Campbell, Treacy, Buckley.

Limerick Utd: Fitzpatrick; Ryan, O'Mahoney, Storan, Fitzgerald, Nolan, Hand, Walsh, Morris, Kennedy, Duggan.

SHELBOURNE (0) 1

SLIGO ROVERS (1) 1

Hulmes Shelbourne: Delahunt; Carney, Boyle, Moody, Last, McMahon, Donnelly (Ryan), Delamere, Nugent, Cleary, O'Neill.

Sligo Rovers: Patterson; Fielding, O'Doherty (D), Rutherford, Fagan, Stenson (Sheridan), Kavanagh, Patton, Bradley, O'Doherty (G), Hulmes.

THURLES TOWN (0) 0

DROGHEDA UNITED (0) 0

Thurles Town: Dunne; Doran, McQuaid, Lyons, Tierney, Heffernan, Conway, Lawson, Steedman, Humphries, Jenkins (O'Brien).

LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS...

Drogheda Utd: Forrestal; Campbell, Cameron (Haughey), Byrne, Ferguson, Freeney, Leech, Doran, Tuite, Carthy, Clarke.

WATERFORD (2) 2 (Kirk, Madigan)

BOHEMIANS (1) 1 (Cowhie)

Waterford: Thomas; O'Mahoney, Finucane, Jackson, Gardiner, Madigan, Carey, McCarthy, Murray, Kirk, Keane.

Bohemians: Davis; Gregg, Burke, Whelan, Brady, O'Riordan, McCormack, Kelly, Cowhie, Eviston, Lawless.

Monday, November 26

F.A. CUP

(First Round replay)

NORTHWICH (2) 3 (Nieman, Collier, Smith)

NUNEATON (0) 0

Northwich: Ryan; Ritchie, Nieman, O'Neill, Forshaw, Jones, Braithwaite, Sromek, Smith (Hall), Bailey, Collier.

Nuneaton: Hall; Farndon, Cross, Shotton, Fallon, Gray, Stockley, Sugrue, Gallagher, Smithers, Houl (Campbell).

Tuesday, November 27

F.A. CUP

(First Round replays)

CHESTERFIELD (2) 2 (Green, Salmons)

GRIMSBY (1) 3 (Moore, , Drinkell, Kilmore)

Chesterfield: Tingay; Tart, O'Neill, Ridley, Green, Kowalski, Birch, Moss, Walker, Salmons, Crawford.

Grimsby: Batch; Stone, Moore, Waters, Wiggington, Crombie, Broly, Ford (Kilmore), Drinkell, Mitchell, Cumming.

HUDDERSFIELD (0) 0

DARLINGTON (1) 1 (Stalker)

Huddersfield: Starling; Brown, Robinson, Stanton, Sutton, Topping, Laverick, Purdie, Fletcher, Robins, Cowling.

Darlington: Owers; Nattress, Cochrane, Ball, Craig, Smith, McLean, Charlton, Stalker, Taylor, Ellis.

PLYMOUTH (0) 0

COLCHESTER (0) 1 (Allinson) a.e.t. 6,926

Plymouth: Crudgington; James, McNeill, Randall, Foster, Phillipson-Masters, Hodges, Cooper (Harrison), Sims, Bason, Graves.

Colchester: Walker; Cook, Packer, Leslie, Wright, Dowman, Hodge, Gough, Foley, Lee, Allinson.

ROTHERHAM (1) 2 (Green, Stancliffe)

MORECAMBE (0) 0

Rotherham: Mountford; Forrest, Breckin, Rhodes, Stancliffe, Green, Finney, McEwan, Gwyther, Fern, Nix.

Morecambe: Byram; Farrell, Walsh, Foster, Street, Moran, Darling, Clayton, Clarke (Stanley), Parry, McLachlan.

WIMBLETON (2) 4 (Leslie 2, Parsons, Dziadulewicz)

GILLINGHAM (1) 2 (Price 2)

Wimbledon: Goddard; Briley, Jones, Galliers, Bowgett, Downes, Dziadulewicz, Parsons, Leslie (Denny), Cork, Lewington.

Gillingham: Hillyard; Young (Funnell), Barker, Overton, Weatherley, Crabbe, Nicholl, White, Price, Westwood, Richardson.

Wed., November 28

F.A. CUP

(First Round replays)

HULL (0) 0

CARLISLE (1) 2 (Winstanley, Bonnyman)

Hull: Blackburn; Hood, Haigh, Hawker, Dobson, Nisbet, Roberts, Moss, Edwards, Bannister, Farley.

Carlisle: Swinburne; Hoolickin, Winstanley, MacDonald, Ludlam, Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Bannon, Hamilton, Staniforth.

WIGAN (0) 2 (Gore, Corrigan)

BLACKPOOL (0) 0

Wigan: Brown; Fretwell, Hinnigan, Gore, Methven, Davids, Corrigan, Wright, Houghton, Quinn, Urquhart, (Moore).

Blackpool: Hesford; Gardner, Pashley, McEwan, Ashurst, Hockaday, Doyle, Spence, Kellogg, Weston (Bamber), Harrison.

Scottish Premier

PARTICK (1) 1 (McAdam)

DUNDEE UTD (1) 1 (Sturrock)

Partick: Rough; McKinnon (Mackie), Whitaker, Campbell, Anderson, Gibson, O'Hara, Doyle, McAdam, Melrose, Park.

Dundee Utd: McAlpine, Stark, Kopel, Murray, Hegarty, Narey, Bannon, Sturrock, Pettigrew, Holt, Kirkwood.

Scottish First

HAMILTON (1) 3 (Howie 2, Fairlie)

CLYDE (0) 1 ((Ahern pen))

Hamilton: Brown, Fretwell, Hinnigan, Gore, Methven, Davids, Corrigan, Wright, Houghton, Quinn, Urquhart, (Moore).

Clyde: Feltate; Wilkinson, Bowers, Hunter, Scott, Prophett, Lewis, Guy, Coyne, Nelson, Ashworth.

Scottish Second

E. STIRLING (0) 2 (Grant 2)

FORFAR (1) 1 (McPhee)

E. Stirling: Rough; McKinnon (Mackie), Whitaker, Campbell, Anderson, Gibson, O'Hara, Doyle, McAdam, Melrose, Park.

Forfar: Hesford; Gardner, Pashley, McEwan, Ashurst, Hockaday, Doyle, Spence, Kellogg, Weston (Bamber), Harrison.

Hamilton: Brown, Fretwell, Hinnigan, Gore, Methven, Davids, Corrigan, Wright, Houghton, Quinn, Urquhart, (Moore).

Clyde: Feltate; Wilkinson, Bowers, Hunter, Scott, Prophett, Lewis, Guy, Coyne, Nelson, Ashworth.

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STAN Cummins, who cost Sunderland £300,000 from Middlesbrough, has been a happy man since his transfer from Ayresome to Roker. He described his move as "100 per cent right for me in every way."

Cummins got off to a dream start for his new club by scoring a goal in each of his first two games, both at home, and now Stan faces up to the big challenge — of helping the Weariders to pick up the away points which are vital to their promotion hopes.

When he made his debut for Sunderland against Notts County on November 17, the club had won six matches at home, drawn one and lost none. But away, it was a vastly different story, with six defeats and two games drawn, and Roker boss Ken Knighton is looking to Cummins as the player who can improve the situation.

And the 20-year-old midfield man is relishing the challenge, which is not surprising, considering his allegiance to Sunderland dates back to school days.

Says Stan: "From the age of six, I've been a Roker fan. But at 12, I went to Middlesbrough, later signed schoolboy forms, and eventually became a professional with them at 18."

It was at Ayresome that the then Middlesbrough manager, Jack Charlton made a forecast that Cummins had all the qualifications to become a £1m footballer. Charlton also showed his respect for Stan's soccer skills by choosing the youngster to demonstrate his footwork in a successful coaching series produced for the Independent Television network.

And Cummins says: "I have a lot

Why Stan is happy

of respect for Jack Charlton, not only because of his reputation as a former England player, but on account of his knowledge of the game and the way he puts over his theories.

"Here at Roker, I have a similar respect for Ken Knighton. He continually encourages me, makes me feel I'm the greatest, and allows me freedom in my midfield role.

"At Middlesbrough it was different. My job was up-front, and in the attack, players are dependent on those behind to give them the ball. I was sometimes bored at not

being sufficiently involved during the 90 minutes. But in midfield at Sunderland, I'm in the thick of things and feel I'm making a useful contribution to the side.

"There is also a difference between the First and Second

Divisions in the time you are allowed to dwell on the ball — in the Second, you have more time to make up your mind, and I've adjusted to this.

"I'm confident we will soon be up among the leaders, and challenging those other teams I believe have a good chance of making a strong bid to get out of the Second Division. They include Newcastle, Queens Park Rangers, Chelsea, Luton, Birmingham and West Ham, and this list indicates just how tough the struggle will be.

"My old Middlesbrough clubmate Stuart Boam has done a terrific job for Newcastle, and he is sure to help them stay right among the promotion contenders.

"Like Stuart, now that I've left Ayresome, I suppose I can view Middlesbrough's League chances more objectively, and I can't see them finishing ahead of Liverpool, Manchester United, Arsenal or Nottingham Forest in the title race."

Today, with his service with Boro behind him, Cummins, only 5ft 4ins tall, is now exclusively concerned with his new club.

He sums up: "When I placed myself on the transfer list, I was hoping Sunderland would come for me. And in the future, I want to justify myself to the manager and the fans."

Two North-East stars with reason to smile

AS Newcastle United enter the second half of this season's closely contested promotion race, right-back John Brownlie is confident that his club will not be lacking in one important aspect — that of adopting the right approach to every match.

The 27-year-old Scottish international reckons that United failed to finish among the Division Two leaders last season because their attitude was wrong.

He says: "Far too often, and this particularly applied when travelling, we were ill-prepared when we took the field. An impression we had was that because we were Newcastle United, less well-known clubs in the Second Division would be overawed and prove easy meat for us.

"We must treat every game as being of equal importance. For example, a "derby" match between Newcastle and Sunderland received loads of publicity, yet a meeting with a side at the bottom of the League deserves equal priority. We need all the points we can get.

"However, I am more optimistic about our away performances this season — we don't give goals away easily. In this respect, Stuart Boam must take a lot of the credit since joining us from Middles-

brough, and his experience has really steadied up the defence."

In assessing his own form, Brownlie is realistic: "I am playing better than I did last season, which wasn't a good one for me. I like to overlap, although I don't anticipate scoring many goals. I probably lack the killer instinct.

"My role with Newcastle is the same as I filled with Hibs, though I've always felt that I've something

which he scores goals during practice in mid-week, I'm surprised he doesn't have more luck with his finishing on a Saturday.

"Up-front, Billy Rafferty has steadily gained in confidence for us, and his link-up with another six-footer, Peter Withe, is setting defences plenty of problems. Both of them are very dangerous in the air, and Alan Shoulder is able to benefit from the openings they create. Alan picks up the crumbs from them and scores goals."

Brownlie, who was in Scotland's original pool of 40 players for the

Why John is confident

to prove in England. Some people thought that I went South just to play out the rest of my career — that I was finished. Well, my answer is my morale and my outlook have never been better, and I can demonstrate this by helping United to promotion. It would be the best possible way to put any critics in their place.

"Newcastle have a great opportunity to move up into the First Division in 1980. Apart from our improved back-four, Kenny Hibbitt has obliged with some outstanding work in midfield. When I was injured earlier in the season I watched Kenny, and was amazed by his incredible work-rate.

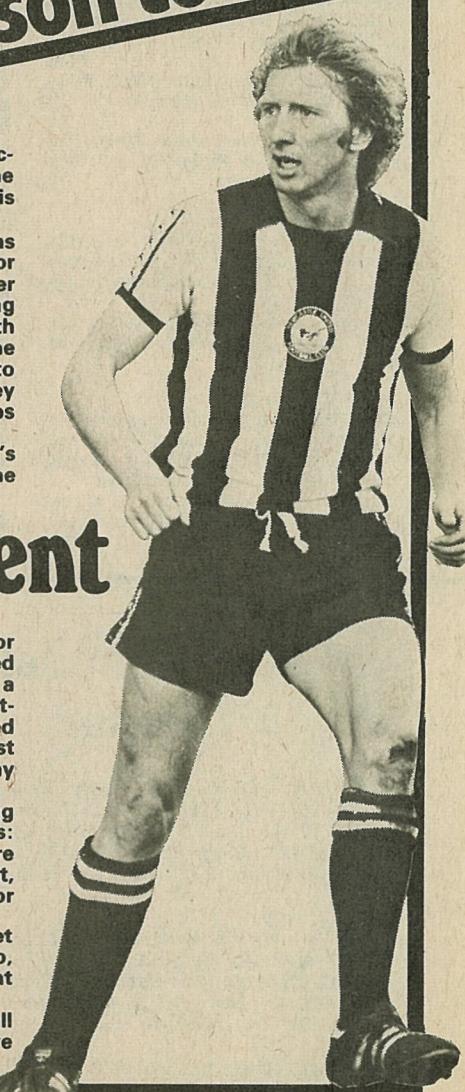
"Judging the capability of Terry's left foot, and the way in

1978 World Cup, wasn't chosen for the final party of 22 who travelled to Argentina. But before then, as a 19-year-old, he won his first Scottish cap against Russia. He gained five more caps, broke a leg against East Fife, and later fought his way back into the national squad.

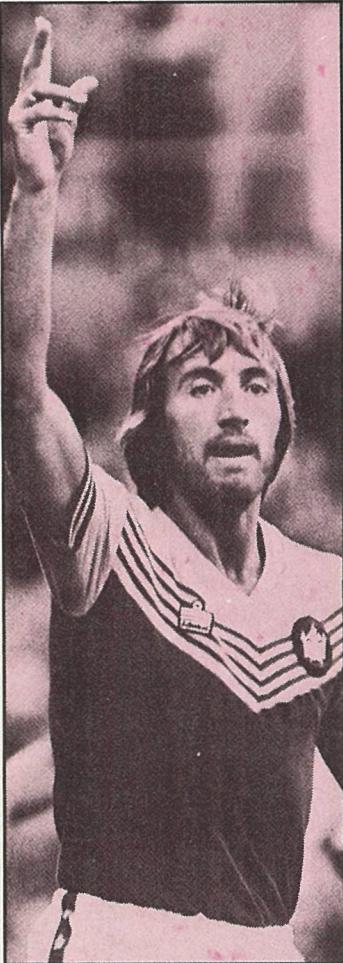
But in 1980, John isn't thinking too much about caps. He explains: "My main hopes and ambitions are with Newcastle. They come first, with any international honours for me counting as a bonus."

"We have all worked hard to get the club to the top of Division Two, and do not intend to let all that graft go to waste.

"We want First Division football again next season, and I'm sure we will get it."



CLUB SPOTLIGHT



WEST HAM

Battling Billy Bonds driving Hammers back to First

Upton Park, have become regular first team men — such as Alan Devonshire and his midfield colleague Paul Allen. New faces for the fresh challenge facing the Londoners.

But behind all the comings and goings, one man still seems to portray better than anyone the driving spirit behind West Ham United — Billy Bonds.

The Hammers' dynamic captain is fast approaching the veteran stage, but the message from 'Bonzo' — his nickname in East London — is "I'm enjoying it as much as ever."

At the start of the season, West Ham announced Billy Bonds' move towards a coaching job at the club. He was given a role as joint player-coach with an eye to the future development of young talent at Upton Park.

But although Bonds has his eyes on the future he says firmly: "That's all for the future — for the moment, I'm enjoying the playing side as much as I ever did."

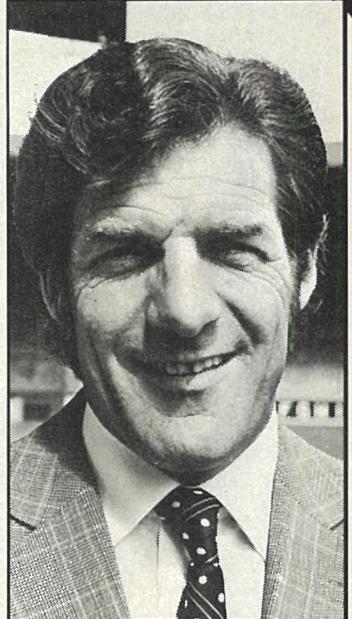
"I'm not really doing that much coaching at this stage. I want to help West Ham to promotion this season and that's taking all my attention."

"I love the game so much that I want to stay in it when I do finally retire. But just because I've taken this job as something for the

future, doesn't mean I'm packing up playing at this stage. I still love playing the game of football more than anything else."

Knowing the thoughts of West Ham boss John Lyall on Bonzo, his captain, that will be for as long as possible. Because Lyall is fully aware of the crucial part Bonds is playing in providing the drive, grit, physical effort and determination in getting Hammers right into the Division Two promotion trio this season.

Hammers failed last season — they just can't afford to slip up again.



Manager John Lyall, Ron Greenwood's successor at West Ham.

Bonds is one of the most competitive players in the modern game. He admits: "As far as I'm concerned, there is only one Division in England for me."

"I will have spent three years in the Second Division by the end of this season, including one at Charlton, and that's enough for me. The First is a world on its own, that's where the quality is."

"Many Second Division teams only come to Upton Park to survive; they just aren't interested in anything else. In contrast, when we were in the First playing sides like Liverpool, Manchester United and Arsenal, we knew we were in for a cracking game every single week."

"You knew where you were; there was no question of a side coming here to survive. You had to play damn well to win even though it was on your own ground. That's what it ought to be about all the time but in the Second Division, it's not the case."

"Going up this season? At the moment, there is no doubt that we are one of the three best teams in the Division. We have been

pleased we have run into form at a good time, not right at the start of the season.

"It's too early, then, to be playing your best football. Our only problem was building the consistency we needed. But, in fact, we have started to put that together now and although we have had silly slips like against Luton when we lost at home, I feel that consistency problems are being sorted out."

One of West Ham's bravest performances in an exhilarating season for their supporters was their League Cup battle with Nottingham Forest before going out of the competition to the 1979 League Cup winners.

For 99 minutes a brave battling, mud-spattered West Ham threatened to become the sixth successive side Forest had failed to beat. They looked like taking the Quarter-Final replay to a third meeting — until Garry Birtles struck. Phil Parkes dropped his cross and John O'Hare scored. Birtles and Martin O'Neill thrashed two more goals past the unfortunate Parkes, who had done so much earlier to defy Forest.

Worried

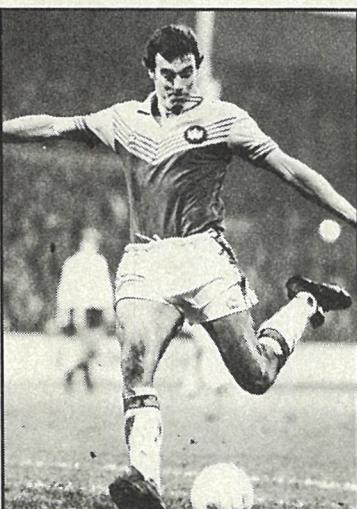
Forest's assistant-manager Peter Taylor paid West Ham the compliment of saying they had "worried" Forest for long periods.

They were inspired by a superb exhibition from Billy Bonds, who has now made more than 450 senior appearances for the club.

Most League managers would have leapt at the chance to sign up a motivator like Bonds, but the Woolwich-born player stayed with Hammers. Now, his loyalty may be rewarded.

"I want promotion this season," says Bonds. "I've become a real West Ham man and I want to see this club regain its First Division status more than anything else."

"I like the game so much that I'm delighted I shall be staying in it at some level when I do finally retire. But, hopefully, that won't be for a long time yet."



Stuart Pearson (left) and Trevor Brooking (above) are bringing international-class football to the fans at Upton Park despite their Second Division status.

WEST Ham's drive back towards the First Division gathers momentum. The London club, so bitterly disappointed to miss out on promotion at the end of last season, look a better, all-round proposition this time in trying to regain their coveted First Division slot, which they lost two seasons ago.

The new men are very much in evidence at Upton Park these days. New signings such as Scot Ray Stewart who cost £400,000 from Dundee Utd., Jimmy Neighbour (£160,000 from Norwich) and Stuart Pearson (£200,000 from Manchester Utd.) are already key members of the side.

Others, from the youth policy at

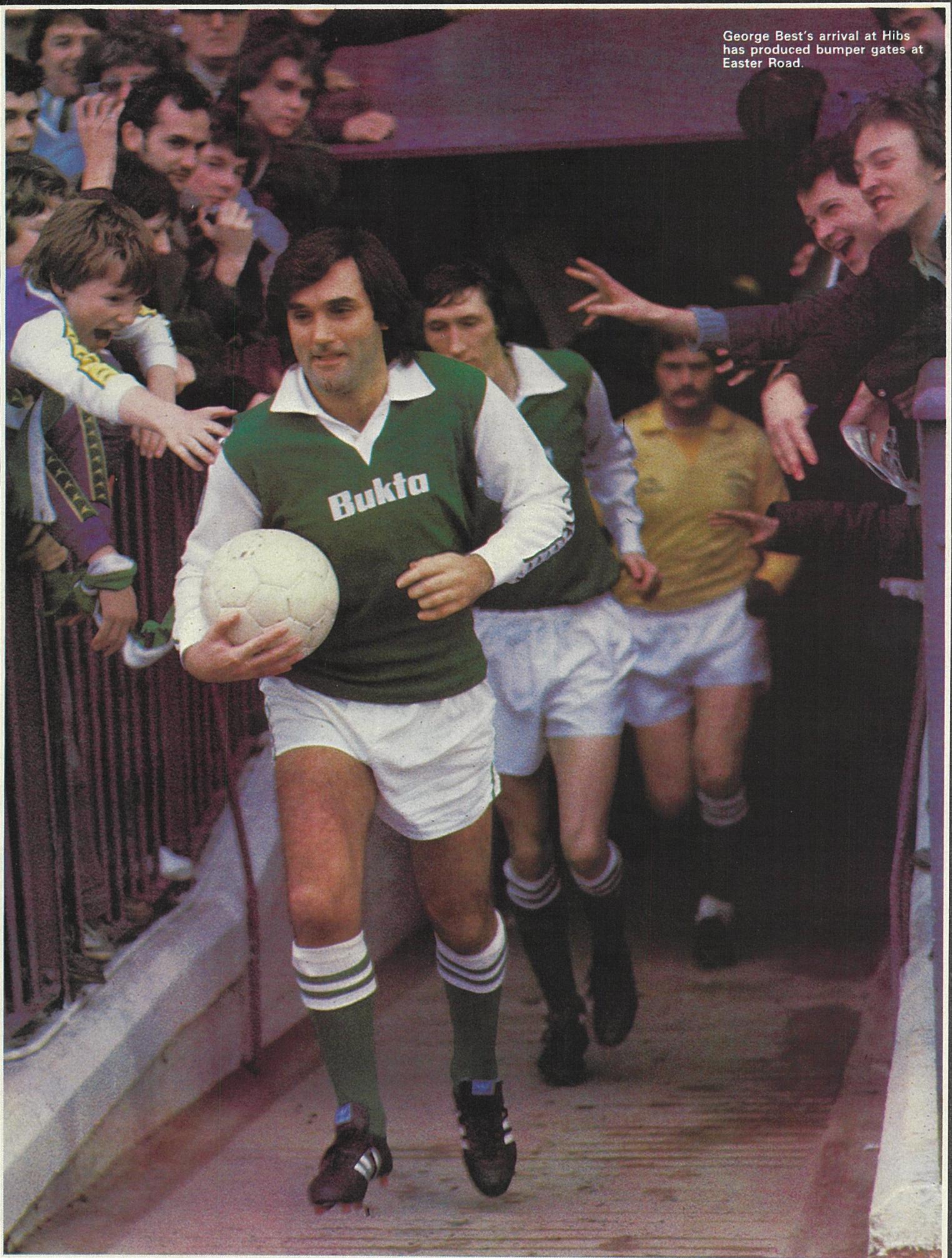


WEST HAM



BACK ROW (left to right): Trevor Brooking, Nicky Morgan, Billy Lansdowne, Phil Brignull, Phil Parkes, Bobby Ferguson, Paul Brush, Alvin Martin, Billy Bonds, David Cross.

FRONT ROW: Geoff Pike, Frank Lampard, Jimmy Neighbour, Pat Holland, Paul Allen, Alan Devonshire, Ray Stewart.



George Best's arrival at Hibs has produced bumper gates at Easter Road.

More Misery for MacLeod

ALLY MacLEOD has confounded everyone yet again! The unpredictable MacLeod was one step away from greatness when he led Scotland to the World Cup Finals, but, with everyone expecting a glorious campaign, the dream became a nightmare.

Last season, after MacLeod had turned his back on the international spotlight and moved first to Ayr and then to Motherwell, he said his main ambition was to win the Premier Division title. Instead, Motherwell were relegated.

Before the start of this season the bookies made the Fir Park men red-hot favourites to win the First Division Championship and come racing back into the Top Ten.

However, they reckoned without the controversial nature of MacLeod. Motherwell now have virtually no chance of winning the First Division Championship.

Bottom

MacLeod has spent a fair amount of cash — £100,000 for Ayr midfield player Brian McLaughlin, £70,000 plus two players for Hugh Sproat, again from Ayr, are just two this season.

Yet after 21 League games they had only 18 points and were fourth bottom of the First Division. They had won only six matches, lost nine and drawn the others. They had scored 29 goals and conceded 34.

Hardly statistics to keep any loyal Fir Park fan happy. Instead of looking forward to a new life in the Premier Division, they are now dreading the drop into the oblivion of the Second Division.

The club's nosedive has been nothing short of incredible. Only two years ago Motherwell were rated the most progressive club in Scotland with a young and ambitious board and a team crammed with talent.

It seemed that Willie Pettigrew just couldn't stop scoring, Peter Marinello couldn't fail on the right-wing and skipper Joe Wark couldn't miss out on some sort of international recognition.

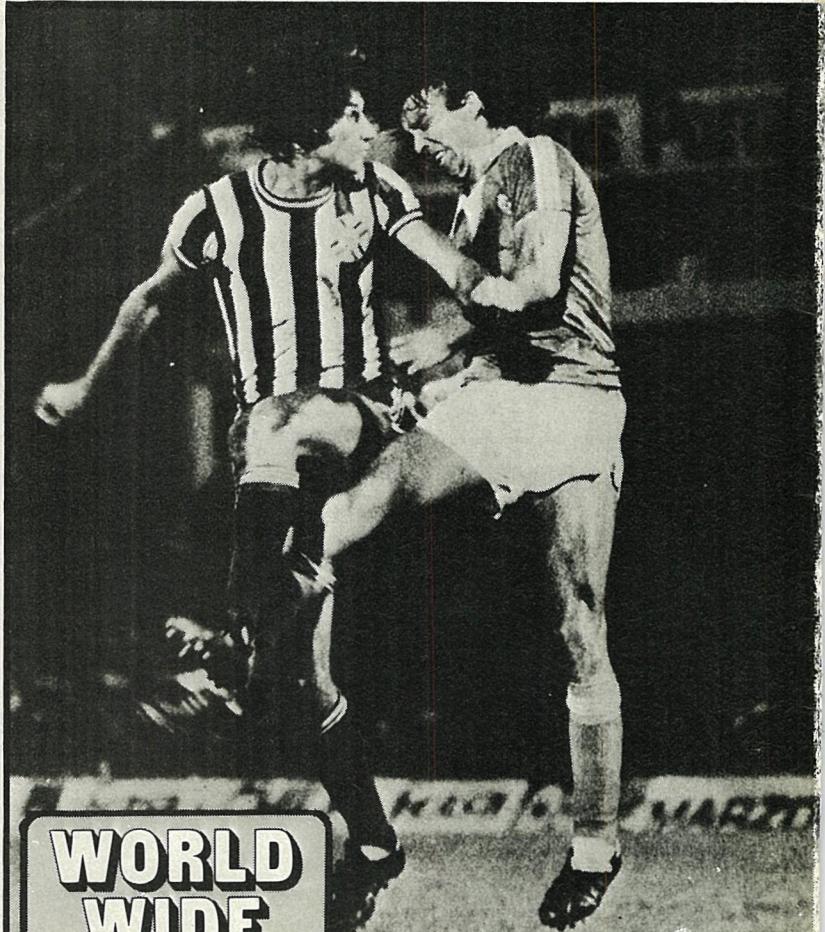
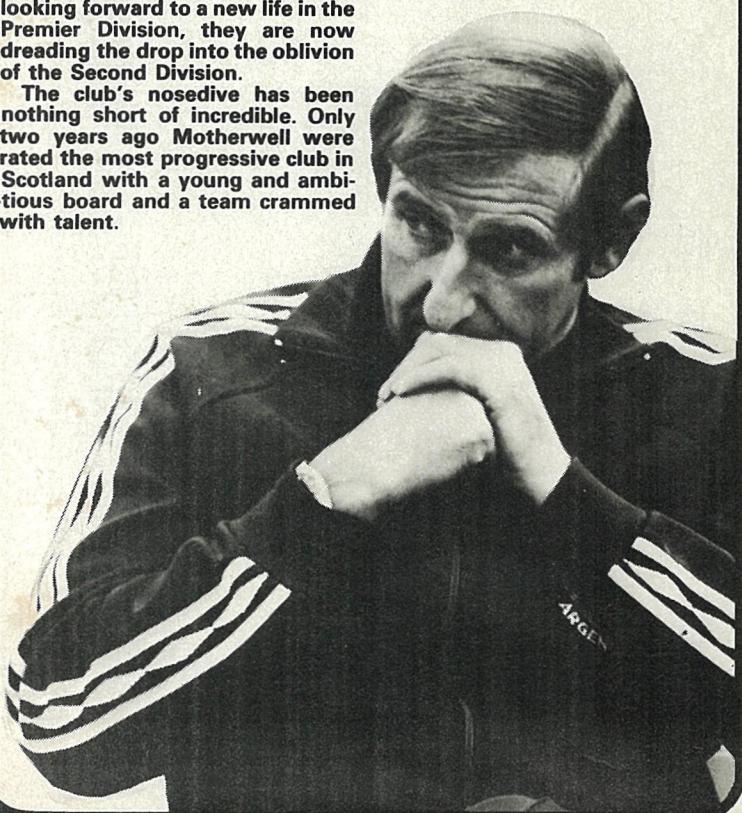
There was a solid defence in Willie McVie, Gregor Stevens and Stewart McLaren. Kenny Dalglish even rated Stewart Rennie as one of the best 'keepers in Scotland.

But what a transformation that side has undergone. Players have been bought and sold with baffling speed and a former Fir Park player says: "You didn't know what was happening, whether you were part of the boss's plan or out in the cold. You didn't know if you were playing or you were going to be thrown on to the transfer list."

If that is true — and we accept that it is a bit of an exaggeration — then it is hardly surprising that Motherwell are hurtling towards obscurity. Once the story might have been 'Ally In Wonderland'. Now it's more likely to read 'Ally In Blunderland'.

It's a pity, for MacLeod is a genuine character and the game, particularly in Scotland, needs him.

When MacLeod finally landed the Scottish team boss job three seasons ago he told the Press: "The Concorde has landed" and pointed to his famous nose. Now is the time for Concorde to take off again along with Motherwell before they crash into the Second Division.



WORLD WIDE



compiled by
CHRIS DAVIES

Welshman Nick Deacy has returned to Holland (he was originally with PSV) from Belgium to sign for Vitesse of Arnhem.

Maria Gerwin (28), an Italian woman footballer, was so incensed at being fouled that she went to the opposing dressing-room after the match, thumped the guilty party . . . and broke her nose. For her revenge, Maria received a short jail sentence.

French national team manager Michel Hidalgo (below) has been in office for four years and in that period he has had 30 games, using 30 new players. Hidalgo's record: P30 W17 D8 L5.



F.C. Brest have been repeatedly coming off . . . er second-best since gaining promotion to the French First Division. In their opening 18 fixtures they managed just five draws and 13 defeats, scoring only eight times and conceding 33. But in their 19th game, against Lyon, they decided to make a clean Brest of it; struck their best form, and surprised the nation by winning 5-1!

After having played 44 games without defeat, Feyenoord were crushed 4-1 by Eintracht Frankfurt in the U.E.F.A. Cup.

Zico has sold the rights for a film about his life to Brazilian movie producer Emilio Ribeiro. The amount has yet to be disclosed, but the title has been chosen: "The Little Cock from Quintino". 'Little Cock' is Zico's nickname and he was born and raised in the borough of Quintino, in Rio de Janeiro.

News flashes

A radio commentator, giving his report on the Real Sociedad v. Hércules game, summed up the first half by saying "the opening 45 minutes have been dominated by Real Sociedad and Hércules . . ."

Lanerossi Vicenza don't seem to be missing the goalscoring talents of Paolo Rossi too much. They're currently lying second in the Italian Second Division and, with 17 goals to their credit, are the highest scorers in the top two Divisions.

French club St.-Etienne have their own super-sub — a striker by the name of Laurent Roussey. In his first five sorties from the subs' bench he scored five times.

Tunisian League leaders Club Africain didn't concede a goal in their first six matches.

Incredible news from Brazil, where América and Mixto de Cuiabá met in the Semi-Finals of the National Championship. The match was played in the 200,000-capacity Maracaná Stadium — and 1,236 fans turned up!

Paraguay shock Champions

No, not World Champions Argentina. Nor three-times World Cup winners Brazil. Instead, unfancied Paraguay are the new South American Champions after coming out on top against Chile in the play-off Final in Buenos Aires.

Paraguay (stripes) beat the Chileans 3-0 in Asuncion (left), but lost 1-0 in Santiago. Goal-difference doesn't count at this stage, so a third game was necessary. Twenty thousand fans in the Vélez Sarsfield Stadium saw the teams draw 0-0 after extra-time, so Paraguay won ... on goal-difference. South America is different!

Argentina's early elimination from the tournament is easily explained by César Luis Menotti's reluctance to put the World Champions' prestige at stake in a tournament that he rated as less important than the World Youth Championship in Japan. The Argentine supremo therefore fielded 'ghost' teams of relatively unknown players and finished bottom of their qualifying group.

Brazil, on the other hand, were eager for success. Failure in two consecutive World Cups has left the soccer-mad Brazilians starved of international success, and man-

ager Coutinho also wanted good performances in order to shore up his shaky position as national team manager.

He was happy to blame the altitude for Brazil's defeat at 12,000 feet in La Paz, and the Brazilians didn't exactly get rave notices for their other performances — though they scraped into the Semi-Finals after a 2-2 draw in Buenos Aires, with Zico being sent off with Argentina's Gallego.

In the meantime, Chile were scraping through on goal difference in Group One, thanks to a 7-0 home win against Venezuela. After disappointing away performances in Caracas and Bogota, manager Luis Santibáñez drew up a programme of serious preparations, and they hit form just at the right time to hammer nine goals past Venezuela and Colombia in their two home games.

In Group Three, once-mighty Uruguay confirmed their decline by winning only one of their four matches, and a young Paraguay side took full advantage and won the group comfortably, despite having midfielder Solalinde sent off in Ecuador.

Defending Champions Peru joined the three qualifiers in the

Semi-Finals, and found themselves paired with Chile. Confrontations between the two countries tend to be passionate affairs, and unprecedented security measures were taken before the first-leg in Lima.

To everyone's surprise, Chile ran out 2-1 winners in a violent game, with Colo Colo striker Carlos Caszely heading both the visitors' goals. Two players were sent off in the return but Chile qualified for the Final with a nerve-racking 0-0 draw.

The sensation of the tournament came in the other Semi-Final, when Brazil, without Zico, crashed to a 2-1 defeat against Paraguay in Asuncion.

Even so, the Brazilians were confident of winning the return by two clear goals, and 81,000 fans in the Maracaná Stadium in Rio watched in disbelief as Paraguay clinched a place in the Final with a hard-fought 2-2 draw.

Falcão put the Brazilians ahead in the 29th minute, but Morel hit a spectacular equaliser six minutes later. Sócrates converted a penalty in the 61st minute to put the Brazilians back in front, but Paraguayan midfielder Florentin silenced the crowd with the killer goal seven minutes later. Coutinho

was left once again to make excuses, and the Brazilians are left wondering if their days as a world soccer power are over.

The Chile-Paraguay Final got off to a sensational start when Paraguay won the first-leg 3-0, with goals from Romero (two) and Morel and completely outclassed the Chileans. But Chile are a different proposition on their home soil, and 70,000 fans saw a brutal return match in Santiago end in a narrow 1-0 win for the home side.

Bonvallot (Chile) and Eugenio Morel (Paraguay) were sent-off in the 16th minute, and even a constant flow of yellow cards didn't put a stop to the violent play. The Paraguayans dominated the match, but, with goal-difference not counting in the Final, had to face a third game.

War

The Chileans who, a year ago, were on the brink of War with Argentina, weren't at all happy about the choice of Buenos Aires' stadium as a 'neutral' ground.

In the event, the game was neither hostile nor violent.

Brazilian referee Coelho was firm; Paraguay decided at half-time that they needn't actually win the game in order to win the Final and defended for the remaining 45 minutes plus extra-time. It was an anti-climax, but it gave Paraguay their first South American Championship win since 1953.

PENALTY CHANGE?

JOSE MARIA Codesal, a member of the FIFA Referees Commission, is to propose that goalkeepers should in future be allowed to move without any restrictions when facing penalty-kicks.

Codesal is quoted as saying (can he really be serious?) that "if the penalty taker is allowed to take a run-up, why can't the goalkeeper?"

At that rate the two players would collide head-on over the ball! I can only hope that Señor Codesal's idea doesn't prosper, as he seems to have forgotten the basic principle that a penalty is awarded to penalise the defending team.

IN their first 15 games of the season, FC Bruges hit the wood-work 22 times.

Italy under fire

ITALY appear to be doing well in their run-up to the European Championship next June, but after the 2-0 win over Switzerland, the crowd jeered their players off the field and the Press were scathing in their criticisms.

Jose Altafini, the Brazilian star who played in World Cups for both Brazil and Italy, and is now playing in Switzerland and writing in a Swiss paper, said: "The Italian players only put themselves out in the first-half and did enough to win. You must understand they are under orders from their clubs not to get injured in case they miss the next League game."

A Peruvian called Ponciano Rodriguez has recently been in the news, and journalists have been following with interest his hour-and-a-half of exercises every morning, and the League match he plays with a district team on Sunday mornings. Señor Rodriguez is 80.

JUVENTUS star Roberto Bettega, like many of the top Italian stars, makes big money from advertising etc. But his best known side-line is a weekly TV chat show. A recent guest on the programme was his boss, the Juventus President, Giampiero Boniperti, himself an international star in the 50's. Said Boniperti: "In my time the players were much less educated, but far more intelligent in the way they played."

IT'S been a miserable season so far for Betis star López. The Seville side are struggling badly in the Spanish League, López seems to have been completely forgotten by Spain's national team manager Ladislao Kubala. And to cap it all, López's bar near the stadium was recently gutted by fire. The police have announced that the fire was started deliberately.

Gustavo! Goodnight

A NOTHER 'fraudulent foreigner' case in Spain, where the rules now allow clubs two players who've represented another country.

Sevilla's two places are occupied by Argentine internationals Daniel Bertoni and Hector Scotti, but it's now been revealed that Uruguayan goalkeeper Gustavo Fernández has also represented his country on six occasions and is therefore not entitled to line-up with the Spanish club.

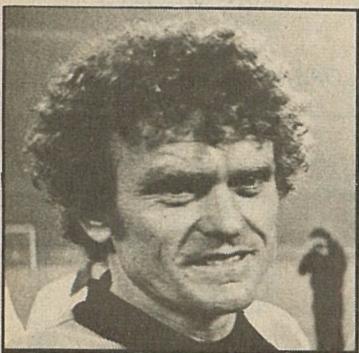
Someone must have tipped-off Gustavo before the news broke in the Spanish Press, because when the club went to his apartment to sort things out, he'd 'done a moonlight'!

I remarked a couple of weeks ago how that Cup-Winners' Cup triumph at Ibrox seems to have been a turning point for Valencia's Mario Kempes (right). He confirmed his return to top form by hitting a hat-trick in Valencia's 5-1 League win against Espanyol and, strangely, all three goals came after shots from Rainer Bonhof had cannoned off the woodwork.

A strange sequence of events led to García Traid's departure from Spanish club Burgos. Firstly the manager announced his resignation after boardroom interference in his team selection. But the squad held an emergency meeting in support of him, and finally persuaded Traid to stay. He communicated his decision to the Burgos board ... and they promptly sacked him!

French club Metz seem to be under something of a black cloud at the moment. General manager Jean Snella died a short while ago, and now manager Marc Rastoll has also died. Metz's Polish international player, Henryk Kasperczak, has taken over as temporary manager.

Laurie Cunningham missed a penalty during Real Madrid's recent 2-1 home win against tail-enders Burgos. Fortunately for Laurie, and for Real, Burgos also missed a spot-kick!



Exactly 131 days after his car accident, Sepp Maier (above) did a full day's training but couldn't sleep afterwards because of the pain in his shoulder. Doctors have told him to slow down ...

Attendances in Finland showed an increase of 38 per cent this year compared with 1978.

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has signed a new contract with Bayern Munich, taking him up to 1981.



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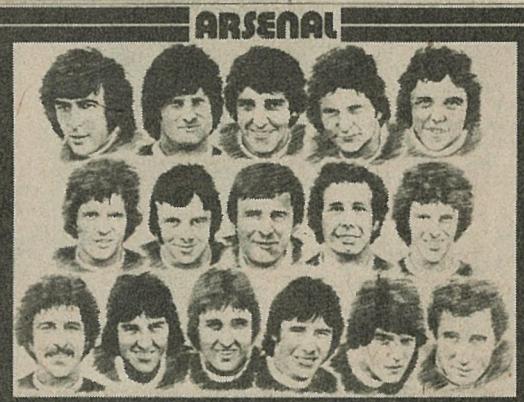
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YOU ASKED, PLAYERS ANSWER

SHOOT invited readers to send in questions to their favourite players. Here are the answers to some of your letters. United Kingdom readers whose letters are published will receive £2. Overseas readers, our special **SHOOT** T-shirt.

GLENN ROEDER (Q.P.R.)

Who do you think is the most promising youngster at Rangers?

Lawrence Angell,
Pirbright.

• You're really putting me on the spot there, Lawrence! Paul Goddard, Gary Waddock and Steve Burke are all terrific prospects, but I suppose I would have to choose my mate Clive Allen. He has scored goals at every level he has played at, and that is what the game is all about. I am sure he will play for England one day.



BRIAN FLYNN (Leeds)

Can Wales qualify for the 1982 World Cup Final?

Brian Morgan,
Monmouth.

• Well it's a bit early to say, Brian! We are confident, but of the British teams we appear to have the toughest group. Russia and Czechoslovakia obviously won't be easy, and we don't relish the trip to Turkey after losing there in the recent European Championship match. We have got to concentrate on winning all our home games, snatching points away.



TONY BROWN (W.B.A.)

Were you disappointed at winning only one full England cap?

Paul Ridyard,
Cannock.

• Obviously I would have liked to have represented my country more times, but I am grateful for that one cap against Malta in 1971. There are thousands of players who have never played for their country, so I count myself lucky.

WILLIE YOUNG (Arsenal)

Who is the best striker you have played against?

John Ley,
Ilford.

• Undoubtedly Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish. He is quite small (5ft 8in) for a striker, but this doesn't seem to be a disadvantage for him. He is very quick, has two good feet and is tremendous in the air despite his size.

STUART BOAM (Newcastle)

Although you have dropped down a Division this season, do you think there is more of a big-time atmosphere at Newcastle than at Middlesbrough?

Dave Sledge,
Bellingham.

• Certainly Newcastle have a tradition of winning Cups and qualifying for Europe, while Middlesbrough's only recent achievement was promotion in 1974. Middlesbrough always seemed content with a mid-table place in the First Division, but Newcastle are on the up again after a recent depression and the players here are good enough to help us to promotion this season.

PETER TAYLOR (Tottenham)

What has it been like having to watch the Spurs revival from the sidelines?

Andrew Peterson,
Harrow.

• As you can imagine it is very frustrating not being able to play because of a pelvic injury, but it is also very pleasing to see Spurs doing so well. I have resumed light training and hope to make a return soon. I feel if Spurs can maintain their confidence we can qualify for Europe this season — this has got to be our main aim.

DAVID JOHNSON (Liverpool)

After the European Cup Final in 1978 U.E.F.A. awarded Tommy Smith a winners' medal because he was injured and could not play. As the circumstances were the same for you, did you also get a medal?

M. A. Blower,
Liverpool.

• Unfortunately I didn't. First of all the club appealed to U.E.F.A. as they had for Tommy, then I appealed, and then all the Liverpool team who played in the Final against Bruges. I still haven't heard from them, and as it was more than 18 months ago I don't expect I ever will. I had hoped to amend that this season, but as you know we were knocked out in the First Round again which was a terrible disappointment.



SANDY JARDINE (Rangers)

What is your most memorable goal?

George Rae,
Glasgow.

• Two immediately spring to mind, George. One was a long range effort against Celtic back in 1967, the other came in the Semi-Final of the European Cup-Winners' Cup against Bayern Munich. I raced into attack and hit a 25-yarder away from Sepp Maier. Another goal which gave me a lot of pleasure came in this season's Drybrough Cup Final against Celtic when I ran 70 yards with the ball before beating Peter Latchford.



JOE HARPER (Aberdeen)

Who is the best player you have ever faced, either at club level or for Scotland?

Andrew Mackay,
Aberdeen.

• The Juventus centre-half Morini. Aberdeen faced them about five years ago in the U.E.F.A. Cup and I don't think I got a shot in over the two legs. He stuck very close to me, but was not a dirty player, and I never got a look in. Juventus won 3-1 on aggregate and Morini was brilliant in both games.

HAVE YOU A QUESTION FOR YOUR FAVOURITE STAR?
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This week's Star Letter comes from Raymond Friel of Greenock in Scotland, who wins our Special Prize of £5. He writes:

ARCHIBALD GUILTY!

In the light of the recent Bell's Scottish League Cup Final, I would question Steve Archibald's acquittal from being a dirty player.

The last judge, jury and defence of the Aberdeen player was Morton's Davie Hayes, who himself is no angel and can only affiliate with others who are 'hard'.

Archibald's case was heard again in the more stirring setting of Hampden Park. His jury: 11 Dundee United players and, excluding the biased Aberdeen fans, 27,000 supporters.

Verdict? Guilty, surely. Why? Archibald fell at one point and grabbed the nearest opponent by the neck, bringing him down, too.

Paul Hegarty will have stud marks in his ribs to commemorate an appalling 'sliding tackle' by Archibald.

The United goalkeeper had the ball but a defender is between him and Archibald, so The Dons player promptly charged the defender from behind.

These and other niggling incidents serve as conclusive evidence that Archibald's attitude to the opposition is unsporting. The case for the defence may plead "big occasion nerves", but the fact is Archibald's played his normal game.

From what I gathered after the game, the Hampden verdict was: guilty. Sentence? Two years of professional football in South America!

As a matter of interest, we have had many 'Archibald for Scotland' letters. His enthusiastic style is bound to attract comment, like Joe Jordan. Davie Hayes says "not guilty"; you say "guilty"; I say Archibald is guilty of being a good, aggressive forward but not guilty of going too far.

Mike's Happy

RECENTLY, on Match of the Day, Manchester City's Mike Robinson said that he is naturally pleased to be in the First Division, and how glad he is not having to play at places like Cambridge.

This statement seems rather strange as he has never played a League game at Cambridge!

NEILL WARING, CAMBRIDGE.

But presumably he's happy not to have to play there!

Lay off Alan

As a Southampton fan, I am very annoyed at the way a minority of Saints' fans have barracked Alan Ball. As soon as he makes one mistake they get on at

him; it's not only Ballie who has suffered this fate. Ted MacDougall, Ian Turner and Jim McCalliog have, too, in their time.

I don't think these supporters realise the worry it can bring to a player and I hope Alan doesn't go the same way as the other three.

Alan is still a very good player and during his career at The Dell has helped Saints to promotion and to the League Cup Final. Without Ballie, I doubt if they would have achieved this as he is a true leader.

Alan can do without the booing and jeering. I hope these so-called fans will allow him to enjoy his football without the disruption of their senseless remarks.

T. SAINT, WYMERING.



With your name you HAD to be a Southampton fan! Those who jeer Alan (above) will no doubt be hypocritical enough to mourn his departure. There would be no shortage of takers if Ballie becomes available.

Pointless

THE attitude of the Football League towards advertising on shirts surprises me. Liverpool and Everton both carry sponsors' names on their jerseys... except when their games are televised.

This seems pointless as all around the ground there is advertising which can be seen as clearly as Hitachi or Hafnia.

The League should make up its mind one way or the other.

BRIAN LEWIS, WIDNES.

Simply allowing advertising on shirts was a breakthrough. Traditions change slowly in the League and I'm sure the 80's will see clubs wearing advertising on jerseys during televised matches, thus bringing much-needed extra revenue into the sport.

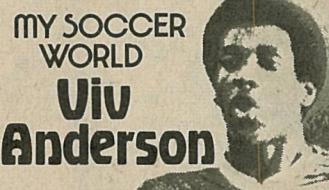
THEY still remember the Swinging 60's and talk about the Sizzling — or Shocking — 70's. Now we are looking forward to what will hopefully be described as the Exciting 80's. Mind you, "explosive" might be a better word when you consider what is happening around the world at the moment.

Riots... political unrest... sanctions... mini-Wars... terrorist bombs... soaring inflation. We appear to be living on a powder keg which could erupt at any moment.

But let's not start the decade on a gloomy note. I'd rather be optimistic and trust the 1980's will turn out to be an era of expansion and excitement, especially in the soccer world.

I believe the game in England will flourish and our clubs will enjoy more success than ever, especially in Europe.

Take Liverpool for instance. For years people have been writing



them off, waiting for the decline. But it never happens. Liverpool only get stronger.

When Kevin Keegan left Anfield doubts were raised about their ability to survive for much longer without their star attraction.

Yet Kenny Dalglish has proved a tremendous replacement, probably contributing more to the overall team effort than Kevin did... if that's possible.

And when Kenny goes? Well, there's probably a youngster somewhere in the English Fourth Division, or Scottish Second, on his way to a date with manager Bob Paisley at Anfield.

This season after just one or two defeats, the media announced the end was in sight for The Reds.

But what happened? Not only did they come back, but they're playing better than ever and certainly looking capable of taking the title this season... and maybe the next as well.

The Exciting 80's? Definitely where Liverpool are concerned.

Nottingham Forest will be fighting alongside Liverpool over the next decade, of course. We'll be one of the pacemakers all right.

I realise we've slipped a bit lately, but in a way that might be to our advantage in the future.

Following our phenomenal success over the past few seasons complacency was the danger. Now we have taken stock of ourselves and realise there is still a lot of work to be done if we are to survive the next ten months let alone ten years.

Thanks to hard work, and new signing Stan Bowles — what a tremendous player — Forest will emerge from our recent spell a better, brighter and more equipped team. A team for the 80's.

Apart from Brian Clough, of course, the manager of 1980 could well be Terry Venables.

Already a respected England coach, I reckon the Crystal Palace boss could eventually take over from Ron Greenwood as the full international manager.

Palace, those exciting, cocky

cockneys are a young side I tip for big honours if not this season then certainly next.

Champions Liverpool gave them a spanking at Anfield just before Christmas. But I remember reading Liverpool were on the receiving end of a few hammerings when they first came up from the Second Division. So were Leeds United.

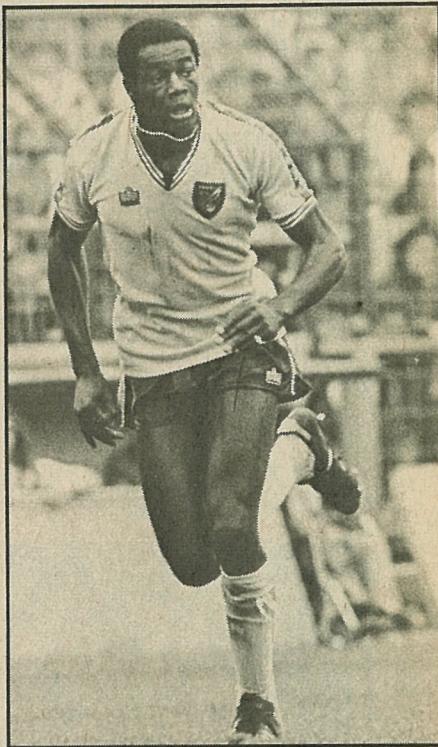
As Palace keeper John Burridge rightly said, that 3-0 defeat was not only a valuable soccer lesson, but an instruction in how to compete for titles.

But what convinced me Palace mean business was the quote from Terry Venables.

"I won't let that happen again. Much as I respect Liverpool they're sticking in my throat. We'll get them... and quicker than they think."

It's that sort of determination that will carry Palace safely through the next decade.

Obviously the Leeds Uniteds,



West Broms, Evertons and Tottenham will still figure in the chase for honours in the 1980's. So will Arsenal and Manchester United.

You'll still get the shock sides making a brief impact, but generally it will be the same old faces taking the trophies.

But I can predict some exciting seasons ahead for the likes of Chelsea, Swansea, Luton, and Stoke.

All these clubs have young managers, such as Geoff Hurst, John Toshack, David Pleat and Alan Durban respectively, making an impact on the game.

These and a host of others I've not mentioned are steadily improving the standards of our football at the lower levels of the League.

Sadly even their enthusiasm and ideals won't stop some clubs from disappearing during the 1980's. Rising costs make that inevitable.

We'll also see more and more of our top players seeking new careers and fortunes abroad. But I don't in all honesty think it will become as serious a problem as people fear.

Over the past few years we've lost a handful of stars to the Continent,

yet several of those have returned disillusioned.

Money is obviously the main attraction because I feel our First Division is the toughest, most competitive League in the world.

But I'm sure the authorities will step in and make some ruling that will make it tougher for foreign clubs to buy our top players at the ridiculously low present fees.

I bet Cologne wouldn't have been so keen to sign Tony Woodcock if they'd had to pay his real worth. Say £1½ million on today's English market.

Four of my stars for the 80's whose values must be approaching that of Tony's are Tottenham's midfielder Glenn Hoddle, Manchester City centre-half Tommy Caton, and the Norwich strikers Kevin Reeves and Justin Fashanu.

These lads have greatly impressed me this season and barring injury should make a tremendous impact on the game in the next ten years.

With players like these around our football can only get stronger over the next decade, especially at international level.

The 1970's were disappointing for England. We won the British Championship a few times, but failed miserably in two World Cups and the European Championship.

The next ten years promise to be our most successful period ever. I just hope I'm around to play my part in England's revival.

Naturally, one of my ambitions for the 1980's is to win a World Cup winner's medal. I'm also aiming to capture every domestic honour with Forest.

My other wishes for the 80's are

to see hooliganism wiped-out . . . more clubs improve facilities and presentation of matches in an effort to attract families to their grounds . . . a ruling to reduce transfer fees (our present system is crazy) and less soccer on TV.

Yes, I'd like the cameras banned from our grounds for a season as an experiment. It won't happen, especially as the clubs have signed a new agreement with the TV companies, but I believe the crowds would come back in large numbers if there wasn't soccer on the box.

Mind you, I expect a bumper gate at the City Ground this Saturday (January 12th) when West Brom are the visitors.

Forest beat them 5-0 at The Hawthorns earlier this season, so I expect there'll be no holds barred in this encounter.

Before I close I'd like to mention the recent transfer of Stan Bowles to Forest. His move from Q.P.R. surprised us as much as the sporting world. Honestly, we didn't have an inkling of Brian Clough's plans.

But this move could turn out to one of the most inspired of the 70's because there are so few players in the game today with the skill and vision of 'Stan the Man'.

Next week my Forest pal Peter Shilton will be writing for you. Join me again in a fortnight as usual.

Already Stan has made a good impact in the Forest side, and his headed goal against Aston Villa at the City Ground on Boxing Day helped us to our first win in eight games, which can't be bad.

In recent seasons at Q.P.R. Stan's goalscoring rate had suffered through his move back to midfield, but he appears to have rediscovered his touch since his arrival at Forest. I am sure he will prove a great success and help us to maintain our remarkable progress of recent years.

'Looking forward to THE EXCITING 80's'

Justin Fashanu (left) a star of the future. England's revival continues into the new decade, led by the magic of Kevin Keegan (right).

K. D. Keegan
V. Fashanu



TAKE A BREAK—IT'S Quiz Time



1. The Welsh F.A. accepted the resignation of Mike Smith to allow him to become manager of which Third Division club?

2. Dundee United won their first-ever major trophy when they beat Aberdeen 1-0, 2-0 or 3-0 to clinch the Scottish League Cup in a replayed Final?

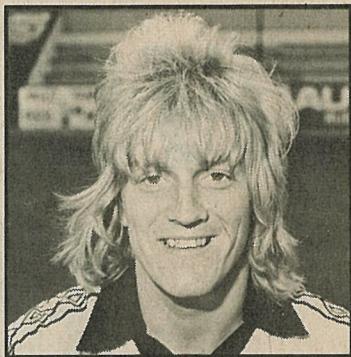
3. Bobby Moore recently took over as manager of which Isthmian League club?

4. Alan Biley (right) grabbed a hat-trick for Cambridge United in their 4-0 win against Fulham recently. How many of his goals were from the penalty-spot?

5. After the games played on December 15, which club headed the (a) First, (b) Second, (c) Third, (d) Fourth and (e) Scottish Premier Divisions respectively?

6. On the same Saturday, two clubs in the First Division had failed to win an away game all season... can you name them?

7. Scotland met Belgium at Hampden Park in a European Championship game recently. Which former Chelsea midfield star, now playing in the Scottish Premier, made his international debut that night?



10. Croydon nearly produced a shock in the F.A. Cup Second Round when they drew 0-0, 1-1 or 2-2 with Millwall at Crystal Palace?

11. Another non-League side to hit the headlines the same day was Altrincham. They travelled to which Third Division club and won 2-0?

12. Phil Boyer's (left) winning goal against Everton on December 15th was the eighth, ninth or tenth consecutive home game that the Southampton striker had scored?

13. Which Bolton Wanderers player announced his intentions of leaving British football and going to play in America?

14. Stan Bowles made his debut for Nottingham Forest against West German club F.C. Cologne, Hamburger SV or Bayern Munich?

15. Former Ipswich Town striker Trevor Whymark joined which First Division club on loan from Vancouver Whitecaps recently?

ANSWERS:

1. Hull City. 2. 3-0. 3. Oxford City. 4. Two. 5. (a) Liverpool, (b) Newcastle, (c) Sheffield United, (d) Portsmouth, (e) Sheffield United. 6. City. 7. West Brom and Bolton. 8. Barnet (Dundee United). 9. Stewart (Brentford). 10. 1-1. 11. Rotherham. 12. Tenth. 13. Willie Morgan. 14. Cologne. 15. Derby County.

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EVERY year seems to throw up a new sports question which inevitably goes the round of pubs, clubs and parties.

And the latest is: 'Which player won caps for England while he was with four different clubs?'

The answer is Dave Watson, who has represented England while playing for Sunderland, Manchester City, Werder Bremen and Southampton.

Perhaps even more remarkable he won three in a row in the space of three months, each while playing for different clubs.

It all came about through that ill-fated spell in West Germany and Watson himself is the first to recognise that his flirtation with Continental football was a mistake.

"I was very excited when I left Manchester City for Bremen because I could see a whole new world opening up.

"Kevin Keegan had told me

great F.A. Cup Final win over Leeds at Wembley in 1973. Even though we were a Second Division side we had a very good side.

"Ironically, I suppose, it worked to my advantage that it was Leeds we beat at Wembley. Don Revie was able to see what I could do at close range and so I stayed in the side when he became manager.

"Fortunately, my form has remained pretty good even when Manchester City were going through that sticky patch last year, and Ron Greenwood has added to my confidence by choosing a settled side and sticking to it.

"In the past two seasons the back four has become well established with Phil Neal and

Mick Mills at full-back and Phil Thompson playing alongside me, so we've got to know each other's play particularly well.

"Even when youngsters like Kenny Sansom and Viv Anderson have been drafted in it hasn't been awkward because we really do have the equivalent of a first team squad of about 17 or 18 players with England now," he said.

Watson has also developed a knack for scoring important goals. His running into the penalty-area for set pieces is feared throughout Europe. In the space of ten internationals he has scored four goals — a fine accomplishment for a centre-half.

His first was in England's 4-0

European Championship victory over Northern Ireland in February. The next came against the same country in the British Championship in Belfast three months later. The third was the middle goal in that vital 3-0 success over Bulgaria during England's summer tour, and it was the Bulgarians who suffered again with that tenth minute header at Wembley in November.

Watson, regarded by many as the last of the old-fashioned stopper centre-halves, should win his 50th England cap against Argentina at Wembley on May 13th — and what a night that should be for him lining-up against the World Champions.

WATSON'S REMARKABLE HAT-TRICK

about the pitfalls as a result of his own experiences with Hamburg but he recommended life over there strongly, and obviously it worked for him.

"To be honest we got a nice house, and the children were getting on well at school in Bremen, but the club itself was the problem. I'm the money-winner and everything revolved around my profession, so when that wasn't right there was only one answer and that was to come back to England.

"Getting sent-off in my second match was a terrible blow. It was ridiculous really and it just went to show how different refereeing standards can be across Europe. Anyway that put the skids under me a little and when Lawrie McMenemy asked me to join Southampton I didn't take long to say yes."

Watson was naturally delighted to be linking up again with Mike Channon, his old colleague at Maine Road, and there was excitement too in the thought of playing behind young Steve Williams and not-so-young Alan Ball, and even further behind the skills of Phil Boyer and Charlie George.

"We have some tremendously talented individuals at The Dell and I've always been told what a great boss Lawrie is. Now I have the chance to find out," says Watson.

It is a source of considerable pride to him that he is the only player to have been in every one of Ron Greenwood's England sides.

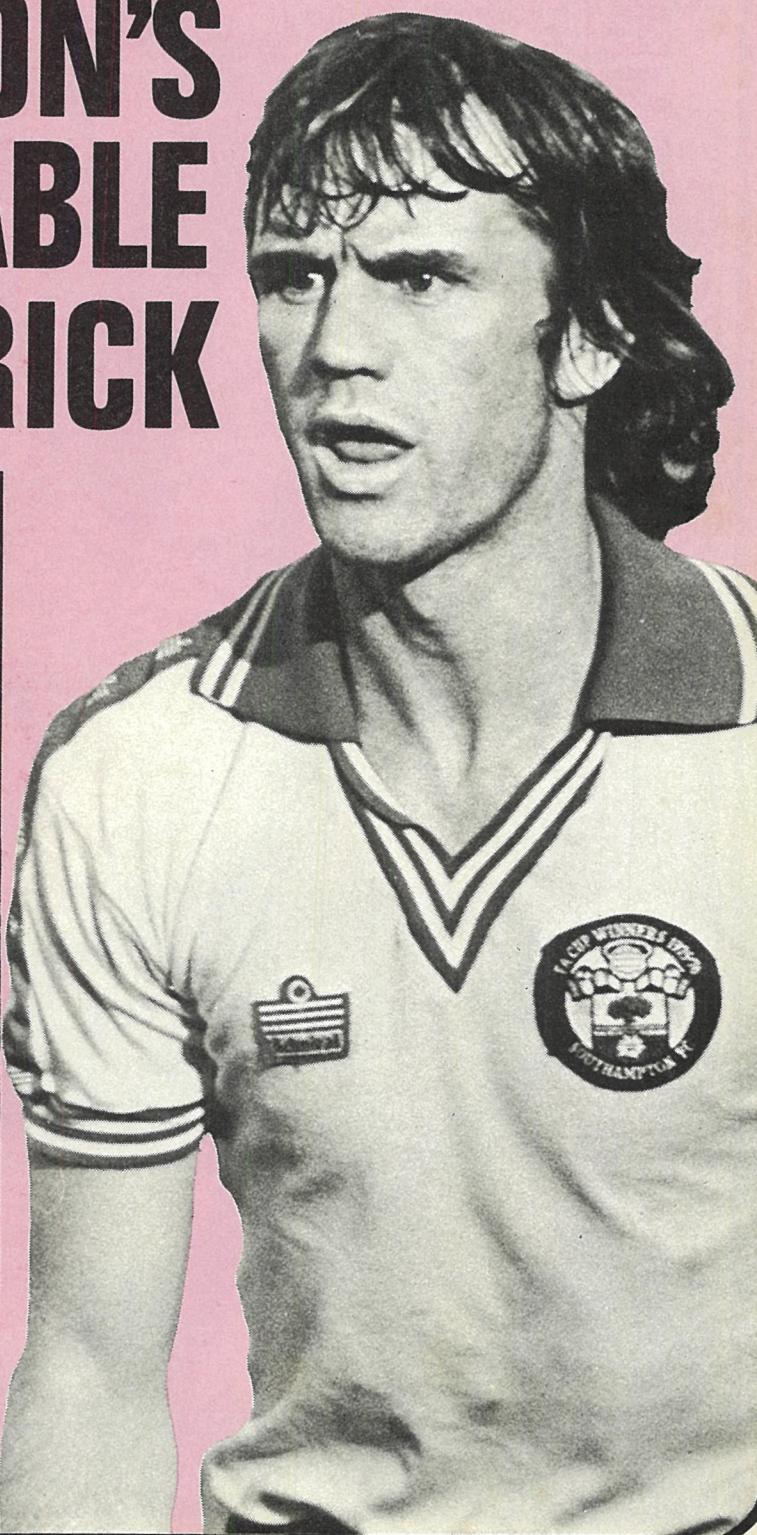
Watson won his 47th cap against Bulgaria recently and his 22nd during the Greenwood regime.

"When I won my first cap five years ago against Portugal it was in Alf Ramsey's last match as England boss. I thought then that I might not be picked again.

"I was with Sunderland at the time and I had come into prominence mainly because of our



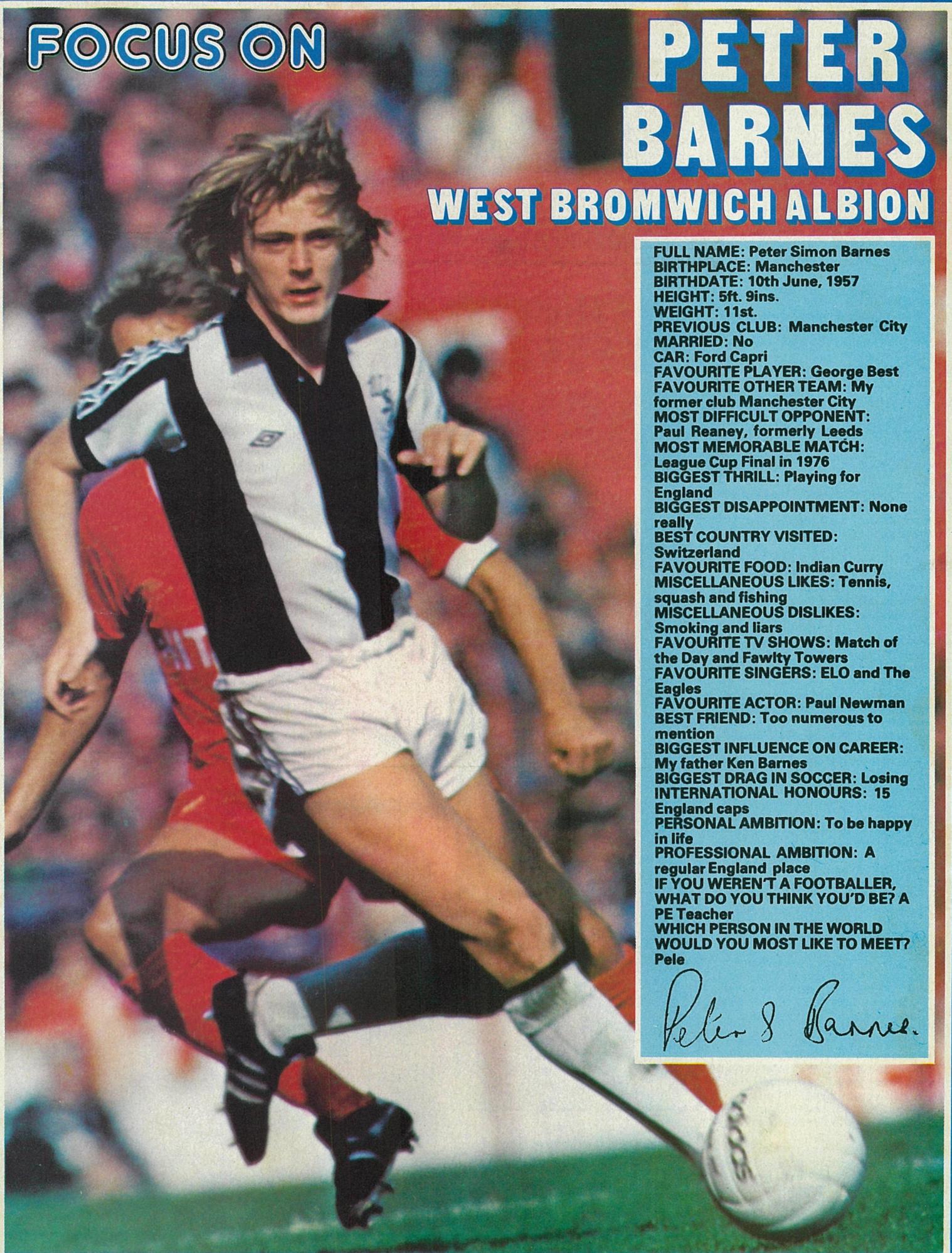
Dave's latest international goal, a soaring header in the 2-0 win over Bulgaria at Wembley which secured England's qualification for the European Championship Finals.



FOCUS ON

PETER BARNES

WEST BROMWICH ALBION



FULL NAME: Peter Simon Barnes

BIRTHPLACE: Manchester

BIRTHDATE: 10th June, 1957

HEIGHT: 5ft. 9ins.

WEIGHT: 11st.

PREVIOUS CLUB: Manchester City

MARRIED: No

CAR: Ford Capri

FAVOURITE PLAYER: George Best

FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: My

former club Manchester City

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT:

Paul Reaney, formerly Leeds

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH:

League Cup Final in 1976

BIGGEST THRILL: Playing for

England

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: None

really

BEST COUNTRY VISITED:

Switzerland

FAVOURITE FOOD: Indian Curry

MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Tennis,

squash and fishing

MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES:

Smoking and liars

FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Match of

the Day and Fawlty Towers

FAVOURITE SINGERS: ELO and The

Eagles

FAVOURITE ACTOR: Paul Newman

BEST FRIEND: Too numerous to

mention

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER:

My father Ken Barnes

BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Losing

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: 15

England caps

PERSONAL AMBITION: To be happy

in life

PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: A

regular England place

IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER,

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE?

A PE Teacher

WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD

WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?

Pele

Peter Barnes.